

Connecticut Guardian

VOL. 3 NO. 5

HARTFORD, CT

MAY 2002

Combat Search and Rescue Training Takes on Renewed Importance Post 9/11

CAPT. GEORGE H. WORRALL III
103RD FIGHTER WING PAO

Winter can be a beautiful yet unpredictable time in New England; but the charm of the season is quickly lost when it interferes with flying training.

To combat the inevitably poor winter flying weather the unit schedules winter basing deployments to ensure training is continued during the winter months. February 14-24 the 103rd Fighter Wing deployed five A-10s to the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center in Georgia for Combat Search and Rescue training.

"This winter basing deployment allowed 103rd Fighter Wing pilots to accomplish one-third of their yearly CSAR training requirements," said Maj. Peter J. DePatie, detachment commander for the deployment, 118th Fighter Squadron. "Overall, the deployment was invaluable to enhancing 103rd Fighter Wing combat readiness."

Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) training is very difficult to execute in the Northeast due to lack of CSAR assets and training areas, according to DePatie. In stark contrast, the equipment and training opportunities available from the Savannah training center are among the best in the country. The Townsend and Fort Stewart



Capt. Michael L. Rodgers, A-10 pilot, 118th Fighter Squadron looks over his ejection seat before embarking to fly a mission from Savannah, Ga. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Eileen S. Casey, 103 CF)

range areas incorporate the Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation (ACMI) system that precisely tracks all the players in a training engagement.

"ACMI uses a pod allowing us to be tracked so when we simulate dropping the bombs you can analyze the whole run in debrief," said Maj. Joseph H. Shulz, A-10 pilot, 118th Fighter Squadron who flew with the system. "At debrief, we could see how we and the helicopters reacted to the simulated ground to air missiles. It was good (training) experience and something we don't get to see up here around Bradley."

The quality of the training opportunity also drew the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System known as Joint STARS. Joint STARS is an airborne battle management and command and control aircraft that carries a mission crew of both Army and Air Force members.

"We don't ever get a chance to practice with J-STARS, so it was a big deal to become aware of their capabilities and limitations," said Maj. Kevin T. McManaman, A-10 pilot, 118th Fighter Squadron, who trained with the system while in Savannah.

See COMBAT p. 24

Unified Command Plan Restructuring Includes New NORTHCOM

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE SENIOR PANCIO

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard B. Meyers have announced changes to the Unified Command Plan (UCP) that establish the missions and geographic responsibilities for combatant commanders.

The most notable change is the creation of a new combatant command, U.S. Northern Command (NorthCom), and its assigned mission of defending the United States and supporting the full range of military assistance to civil authorities.

Title 10 of The United States Code requires that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff review, not less than every two years, the missions and responsibilities (including geographic boundaries), of each combatant command and recommend to the president, through the secretary of defense, any necessary changes. The events of Sept. 11, 2001 and the ensuing war on terrorism, as well as the new defense strategy in the 2001 Quadrennial Defense Review, highlighted the requirements to further adjust the plan.

In addition to the creation of NORTHCOM, the UCP also provides for shifting U.S. Joint Forces Command's geographic area of responsibility to the U.S. Northern Command and U.S. European Command, enabling U.S. Joint Forces Command to focus on transforming U.S. military forces.

Effective Oct. 1, 2002, the plan also designates geographic areas of responsibilities for all combatant commanders and assigns them responsibility for security cooperation and military coordination with all countries in the region.

Highlights of the UCP include: The continental United States, Canada, Mexico and portions of the Caribbean region will be

See NORTHCOM p. 4

NCOs Lead the Way, Graduate ANCOC and BNCOC



Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever, Command Sergeant Major of the National Guard, addresses graduates of the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course at Camp Rowland, Niantic. (Photo Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)

SPEC. JOSEPH WALLER
65TH PCH

On April 21, 36 graduates from the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course (ANCOC) and 68 graduates from the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course (BNCOC) participated in a graduation ceremony hosted at Camp Rowland in Niantic, Connecticut.

The soldiers were trained by the 2nd General Studies Battalion, 169th Leadership Regiment of the Connecticut Army National Guard. The soldiers went through a six-month course with rigorous instruction, multiple tests, and a strong and supportive training staff that honed and improved their skills as leaders.

The ceremonies were well attended by soldiers' friends and families, who watched each class file in during a student's reading of the NCO creed. The attendees and soldiers then stood as the 1st Company Governor's Horse Guard posted the colors and the 102nd Army Band played the National Anthem. Staff Sgt. Steven M. Markowski of the 65th Press Camp welcomed each class.

See NCOES p. 21

UP FRONT WITH THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

The Military Spouse

May is the Month of the Military Spouse. No words can express our thanks to you for all your support, especially recently. The Connecticut National Guard has answered many calls for assistance, from both our Governor and President. The military spouse has enabled the Connecticut National Guard to successfully execute those missions and do so with great pride.

Just last spring, our state called our National Guard to assist in caring for and supporting Connecticut citizens who were directly affected by the 1199 healthcare strike. Shortly thereafter, many of our units left for their annual training. In late August, Company B of the 102nd Infantry Battalion along with our 143rd Forward Support Battalion answered our country's call to service and deployed to Bosnia to conduct stabilization operations in the region. Our Air Guard also was active in flying missions over Southwest Asia.

After September 11, 2001 we were called again to conduct a myriad of missions in

support of our country's Homeland Security. More than 300 members of the 2nd Battalion, 192nd Field Artillery's Task Force deployed on short notice to Utah in support of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. In addition, many soldiers were deployed throughout our state to help in the securing of airports, nuclear power plants, infrastructure and our people. Our airmen and women deployed throughout the country and select regions of the globe to conduct Homeland Security missions, too.

The past twelve months were extremely challenging for all of us. I am proud of what our soldiers, airmen and women have accomplished. I clearly understand that the spouses of the Connecticut National Guard had just as much to do with our success as our members. Spouses play an important role in managing issues at home while our soldiers, airmen and women are serving our state and country elsewhere.

The demands on our soldiers and their spouses over the past year have been

taxing. Today, we still are performing a vital role in our country's Homeland Security and Domestic Preparedness. I am confident that our state and nation will continue to call again to assist in combating this new war on terrorism. We will not succeed without the support of the military spouse, our families and the many supportive members of our community.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to recognize our mothers as well. Mother's Day is approaching — Sunday, May 12. Mothers also play a pivotal role in support of mission accomplishment. That is why I urge all of you to take time to recognize them and all who help in facilitating what we do.

The military has many vehicles for recognizing achievements of those who wear the uniform. But rarely is recognition realized for those that support us at home. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our soldiers! Without your enduring support, our achievements would not be possible.

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM A. CUGNO
ADJUTANT GENERAL



Connecticut Guardian

360 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105-3795
Phone: (860) 524-4857
DSN: 636-7857
FAX: (860) 548-3207

E-Mail:
debby.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil
john.whitford@ct.ngb.army.mil

Captain-General
Gov. John G. Rowland

The Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno

Commanding General, CTARNG
Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzski

Commanding General, CTANG
Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Epps

State Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Steven L. Primett

State Command Chief Master Sergeant
Chief Master Sgt. Joseph King

State Public Affairs Officer
Connecticut Guardian Managing Editor
Maj. John Whitford

State Senior Public Affairs NCO
Connecticut Guardian Editor
Sgt. 1st Class Debby Newton

Connecticut Guardian Layout Editor
Patricia Gentry
The Day Printing Company
and
Sgt. 1st Class Debby Newton

Contributors

Det. 1, 65th Press Camp HQ, CTARNG

Capt. George Worrall, III
103rd FW PAO, CTANG

103rd Communications Flight, CTANG

First Company Governors Horse Guard

Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

The *Connecticut Guardian* is an authorized publication for and in the interest of, the personnel of the Connecticut National Guard, State Military Department, State Militia and their families. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the CTNG Hartford Public Affairs Office and is not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Army or the Department of the Air Force. The *Connecticut Guardian* is published on the first Friday of every month and is printed by The Day Printing Co., New London, Connecticut, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army.

Deadline for submissions is the first Friday of the month preceding the month of publication.

Circulation: 7,000

ENLISTED UPDATE

Reserve Retirement Bill Pending



CHIEF MASTER SGT.
JOSEPH L. KING
STATE COMMAND CHIEF
MASTER SERGEANT

In March, a number of articles appeared in our base papers referencing the call for co-sponsorship of H.R. bill 3831, the reduction of the reserve component retirement age from 60 to 55, by Rep. Jim Saxton from New Jersey.

In case there are those of you who did not have the opportunity to review any of the aforementioned articles, I am including one of them in this article...I am doing this to bring to your attention the fact that this bill, like so many others, is sponsored by a number of organizations that lobby for improved pay and benefits for us. To list just a few, there is the Air Force Sergeants Association, EANGUS, and closer to home is our own local EANGUS affiliate, the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT).

There are other organizations that are supporting this bill than those that I have noted above. My point here is what are we, the beneficiaries of the labors of these organizations, doing to support them? Are we members? If so, are we involved with any of the work that they are doing on our

behalf. Oh, in case you did not know, their priorities are our priorities. Those of us who participate in the activities of these organizations establish and prioritize their priorities.

If after reading the following article, you decide, "Hey, I want to get involved", I would recommend that you take a look at three or four of these organizations and get involved with the one that best meets your individual goals and needs. You will not regret the time and effort than you will invest. Take my word for it! Now here is the reprint of the article and please be aware that the Air Force Sergeants association is not the only organization supporting this bill:

RESERVE RETIREMENT. Congress is in recess; its members have returned to their home states and districts for the "Spring District Work Period." This recess is the last week of March and the first week of April. During this time is an excellent opportunity to call for co-sponsorship of H.R.3831, by Rep. Jim Saxton, R-NJ, to lower the earliest reserve component retirement age from 60 to 55.

As expected, government agencies have quickly come out in opposition to this

change, as have several private associations closely related to government leadership. While the motive is clearly to avoid the transitional expenditure of increased retirement dollars, opposition is couched in words such as "such a change would harm readiness" and that "further study is required." AFSA maintains that the current system actually harms readiness by tying up potential promotion opportunities (remember, the reserve component generally promotes by vacancy) and causing those aged 55 and higher to stay on duty to collect a few more points toward retirement. Of greater importance to AFSA is that it is time to recognize the extraordinary contribution to our nation's defense of those serving in the Guard and Reserve. Remember, reserve component members are the only federal retirees who must wait until age 60 to collect their retirement benefits.

While AFSA subscribes to the argument that reserve component members ought to be able to collect retirement benefits once they are earned - in effect, eliminate the "gray area" - H.R. 3831 would be a good first step toward reserve component equity.

Partnership Between Coast Guard and National Guard Helps Bring Bridge to Connecticut Rails to Trails Project

2nd Lt. CASSANDRA WEBB
248th ENGINEERS

On April 6 and 7, members of the 248th Engineer Company (CBT)(HVY) supported the Coast Guard Academy Civil Engineering students in their senior project of constructing a bridge for the ongoing Rails to Trails conversion.

For the past few months, the cadets of the CGA have been planning the designs, prefabricating parts of the bridge and preparing resources to construct a bridge on an old train trestle over the Hop River in Columbia, Conn. The project officer, Lt. Palezetti (Coast Guard) has been guiding and instructing these students through the entire process. For the final phase of the project, the construction of the bridge, the lieutenant contacted the Connecticut Army National Guard to assist in the completion.

The 248th's mission was to provide the necessary

equipment and manpower to build the 140-foot span bridge. They provided 20 National Guardsmen, a SEE (backhoe), Air Compressor and a multitude of tools. The soldiers worked under the supervision of, and beside, the eight cadets who were learning not only how to build a bridge, but how to properly plan and manage a construction project.

Vigorous tasks such as carrying 12-foot and 16-foot decking beams, emplacing railings and curbing, drilling hundreds of bolts and creating a retaining wall were all accomplished within the 24-hour period. The soldiers were exhausted by the end of each day.

Throughout the weekend, several townspeople came by the site on foot, horseback and bike to see what all the excitement was about. They all expressed gratitude and excitement to soon be able to cross over to the other side which leads to another four or five miles of trail.

Prior to the beginning of the construction, the soldiers were welcomed by a "Thank you" written with sticks at the mouth of the bridge. This kind of appreciation brought motivation and a sense of pride to each and every individual who worked on the project. There is nothing better than knowing that work you have completed is noticed and admired.

Overall, this mission was a complete success and quite enjoyable. The National Guardsmen showed an outstanding effort and displayed continuous teamwork throughout the entire weekend. Working with the Coast Guard was an experience of inter-service cooperation that will be utilized again in the future. Most importantly, the 248th Engineer Company was able to participate in building a structure that will be used and enjoyed for many years to come.



A Small Emplacement Excavator (SEE) helps the engineers repair the headwall of the bridge. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Bressani, 248th Engineers)



Pneumatic tools and a compressor are being used to fasten the deck boards to the bridge. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Bressani, 248th Engineers)



The completed bridge connects two sides of the Rails to Trails project, enabling hikers, runners and bikers to enjoy more of the natural environment. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Bressani, 248th Engineers)



Members of the 248th Engineers worked side-by-side with cadets from the Coast Guard Academy's civil engineering program to construct a bridge in Columbia, Conn. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Bressani, 248th Engineers)



Repair work was a big part of the Rails to Trails project. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Bressani, 248th Engineers)

NorthCom Part of New Unified Command Plan

From p.1

designated as U.S. Northern Command's area of responsibility. While Alaska will be included in this assignment, Alaskan Command forces will remain assigned to the U.S. Pacific Command. The commander of U.S. Northern Command will also be responsible for security cooperation and military coordination with Canada and Mexico. Russia and the Caspian Sea will be included in the area of responsibility assigned to U.S. European Command, however U.S. Pacific Command will retain responsibilities for certain activities in Eastern Russia. And Antarctica will be included in the area of responsibility assigned to the U.S. Pacific Command.

In making the announcement on April 17, Rumsfeld this plan "realigns and streamlines the U.S. military structure to better address 21st century threats" and "is undoubtedly the most significant reform of our nation's military command structure since the first command plan was issued shortly after World War II."

"The men and women in uniform quickly, skillfully and successfully responded to the brutal attack on September 11th," said Rumsfeld. "The spread of weapons increasing range and power into the hands of the world's most irresponsible regimes

threatens to create dangers and instabilities around the globe and we, as a country, have to be ready to defend against, and where possible, prevent even worse attacks in the days ahead. The 2002 Unified Command Plan is fashioned to help do that. It has some historic firsts. This is the first time that the continental United States will be assigned a commander for the Northern Command, or NorthCom, as we'll undoubtedly call it. The new commander will be responsible for land, aerospace and sea defenses of the United States. He will command U.S. forces that operate within the U.S. in support of civil authorities."

The new command will be based at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, pending the necessary studies that are required by law. It will help the department better deal with natural disasters, attacks on U.S. soil and other civil difficulties. It will provide for a more coordinated military support to civil authorities such as the FBI, FEMA and state and local governments.

"September 11th showed us the threats we face today," said Meyers. "Today's world is extremely complex and requires changes in the way our military thinks and reacts. The changes reflected in the Unified Command Plan, I think, go a long way into preparing

us for the future, and I believe they constitute a very major change."

Meyers announced that one of those major changes included the commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, taking on command of NorthCom in addition to his current duties. NORAD's missions to deter, detect and defend against air and space threats to North America will not change. NorthCom will also have a deputy commander, who will in all likelihood be a National Guard lieutenant general position.

In explaining some of the tangible differences that people will see with the new UCP, Meyers focused on the events immediately surrounding September 11th.

"Probably if you looked back at how the department (of defense) responded to needs up in New York, you might find that while not confusion, there was not good unity of effort in that case. I think in this case, we'll have a focus on that which will allow us to provide what's needed at the right time to the right federal agency or perhaps a state agency, as the case may be. That's where I think you'll see a difference. We have trained units to respond to chemical and biological attack. A lot of those are in the Reserve component. With this new command, they'll

take a look at that more broadly. They'll look at what other kinds of specialized training and units are out there and they can best be utilized. The implementation plan's not done yet, we're still working on that."

While there is still much to be worked out, the UCP is on target to be up and running on October 1, 2002, but has been in the works for a while, beginning with the Quadrennial Defense Review and continuing with the events of September 11th.

"The UCP reflects the new defense strategy that was outlined in the Quadrennial Defense Review last year," said Rumsfeld. "The QDR's goal was to preserve our security while preparing for the inevitability of uncertainty and surprise. And we recognize that that is indeed, our future. This highest priority of our military is to defend the United States. To do so, the military must sustain its forward commitments to allies and partners, and to meet the challenges the United States military must transform. The changes made to the Unified Command Plan will help us to defend, to transform and to stand solidly with our allies and our friends across the globe."

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a two-part series of articles on NorthCom. See next month's issue of the Guardian for more information on the mission of NorthCom.)



Two Retired Guardsmen Inducted into OCS Hall of Fame

Connecticut's WW II Veterans Among First Commanders of the 43rd Infantry Brigade

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI
65TH PCH

Two longtime members of the Connecticut National Guard, both of them World War II veterans, and were inducted into the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame, April 5.

Col. Ragnar H. Peterson, and Col. Edmund T. Negrelli first met each other when they were members of the 169th Infantry Regiment, 43rd Infantry Division, in 1949. They served many years together in the Connecticut Army National Guard, and deployed to Europe when the 43rd Div. was activated during the Korean War. Each grew threw the ranks in the Connecticut Guard, to include serving as commander of the 43rd Infantry Brigade.

Their service in World War II, and their long lasting positive influence on the Connecticut National Guard were among the reasons they were inducted in the Hall, according to the man who nominated them.

Nominations are made by OCS graduates who have already been inducted. Assistant Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. I.J. Zembrzski, who was inducted last year after being nominated by Adjutant General Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, nominated Peterson and Negrelli.

"I served for both of them (in the 43rd Brigade). They were outstanding leaders," Zembrzski said. "They're heroes. They did a great job for our country in World War II. And they served valiantly as brigade commanders in the Connecticut Guard."

Peterson was the first commander of the 43rd Brigade. Negrelli was the third. Zembrzski was the ninth.

In fact, Peterson, now 82 years old, still cites an assessment he made of Negrelli, 79, shortly after the two first met, in 1949.

"I picked him to be one of my battalion commanders, when I commanded the (43rd) Brigade. That's how highly I thought of him," Peterson said. "He's a good soldier. I feel good about seeing him make it (into the Hall)."

Negrelli was equally complimentary of his former commander.

"I've known him for more than 50 years. He's a soldier and a gentleman," Negrelli said. He also added that it was rewarding to be nominated by a former junior officer who went on to commendable achievements "It makes me feel really good to be remembered, and to receive that acknowledgement. He (Zembrzski) went out of his way for us, and that speaks a lot about him, and about the Connecticut National Guard."

Zembrzski, on the other hand says that the contributions of Peterson and Negrelli say more about the National Guard. "I was extremely proud to have accompanied two of my former brigade commanders to the Hall of Fame induction. These two World War II



Col. Ragnar H. Peterson and Col. Edmund T. Negrelli outside the OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia. (Photo courtesy of Brig. Gen. Zembrzski)

heroes are great examples of the quality of leadership of the Connecticut Guard throughout the decades," Zembrzski said.

Both served extensively on active duty during World War II, facing experienced German troops in hostile areas including France and Italy. Each served in Europe on occupation duty after V-E Day. And although they had not met each other yet, they both saw joining the Connecticut Army National Guard as almost an automatic step, after being released from active duty and returning to Connecticut.

"I missed it. I always like the military," said Negrelli, who joined in late 1947. He served 34 years.

"I had every intention of joining the Guard when I got out (of the regular Army)," Peterson said. He joined in 1948, right after being released from active duty. In fact, he said that other than his combat service, his proudest moments came as a member of the Connecticut Guard.

"The fact that I commanded outfits that were recognized as being good," Peterson said, when asked what he remembers most from his career. "I think being commander of the 2nd Battalion, 169th Infantry, and later becoming the first commander of the 43rd Brigade would be what I'm proudest of —

except for the wartime service."

After the 43rd Division was reorganized, the 43rd Brigade was put under the 26th Infantry Division, much of which was part of the Massachusetts National Guard. Peterson became commander of the 43rd Brigade, and did his best to set the example for his new colleagues.

"There was no doubt in our minds that the 43rd Brigade was the best of the three in the division. In fact, I think a lot of people in Massachusetts would agree with that," Peterson said.

During World War II, he served with a unit comprised mainly of troops who enlisted from Hawaii and California. The famous 442nd Infantry Regiment was comprised of Japanese-American volunteers. The members of the 442nd became well known for its accomplishments, even as some of their families were confined to internment camps. As a second lieutenant, Peterson served as a member of the cadre when the unit was being formed and trained at Camp Shelby, Miss. He deployed to Italy with the unit in May 1944, as a platoon leader. The regiment deployed with 4500 troops, and faced extensive combat.

"At times, we were less than 50 percent strength," Peterson said, adding that the unit

continued to get new troops, and continued to take casualties. "We had 9,000 Purple Hearts, and we had 850 KIAs"

After taking a hill north of Rome, the 442nd came under a barrage of indirect fire.

"I was checking to see how my machine gunners were doing, when a mortar round came in close. I got a few hunks of shrapnel in the chest, the arm, the ear, the neck," he said. Although he spent about two months recuperating, he remained with the unit and resumed duty, as the 442nd fought its way into southern France.

After the war, Peterson returned to the states and was married. He and his wife, Marguerite, relocated to Fort Benning. The next stop was Germany in mid-1946, where he served on constabulary duty for almost 18 months.

Similarly, Negrelli finished his regular Army service as a member of the occupation forces in Germany.

He signed up for the Army on April 4, 1942, and after completing his initial training, he was stationed stateside as a platoon leader, until just before the Battle of the Bulge. He joined the 263rd Regiment, 66th Infantry Division, in northwestern France.

"Germany had submarine pens around there, and we were containing them," Negrelli said, adding that his regiment faced a combination of army and navy troops. "They had a sizable number of troops. I had the feeling that if they made a concerted effort, they probably could have broken through. But, the Germans surrendered, and our commanding general accepted the surrender of the Germans in that area."

After the fighting officially ended in Europe on May 8, the 66th Division began assisting service and support troops who were going directly from Europe to the Pacific Theatre, to face the what was left of the Axis Powers. The 66th set up several staging areas in Marseilles, France, processing as many as 15,000 to 20,000 troops at any given time, Negrelli said.

Negrelli later served with a Labor Supervision Company. He supervised approximately 350 German SS troops, who were all skilled tradesmen, as they converted an Austrian Army camp into a U.S. Army hospital, outside of Salzburg. He was released from duty in December 1947, and returned home. He joined the Connecticut National Guard within months.

Both Peterson and Negrelli returned to Germany, when the 43rd Division was activated to protect Europe during the Korean War. With so many regular Army troops having been transferred to Korea, Europe was thought to be vulnerable to

See HALL OF FAME p. 10

Hann Named CTANG Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG
PUBLIC AFFAIRS JOURNEYMAN, 103RD FIGHTER WING

"I felt honored because I know there is a lot of talent on the base and in the entire unit," said Staff Sgt. Aaron F. Hann, munitions systems journeyman, 103rd Maintenance Squadron, when notified of his CTANG NCO of the Year Award. "I didn't expect it and when I found out, it took a while to sink in."

Hann, an Ellington native, joined the United States Air Force in May 1996. He served a four-year tour at Edwards AFB, Calif., where he was initially assigned to the munitions flight, 412th Maintenance Squadron, and was later assigned to work under the 412th Logistics Group commander as a program manager for special projects.

After serving four years, Hann returned to his home state and joined the Connecticut Air National Guard.

"When I got out of the active duty Air Force, after forty days of terminal leave, I realized I missed it and decided I still needed a taste of the military in my life," said Hann.

Hann has recently volunteered for a number of deployments, including two consecutive Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotations at Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait, last fall. He emulated the Air Force core value "Service Before Self" by sacrificing a semester of college to meet manning requirements. As his first "real world" deployment, Hann said he "realized the importance of the mission and decided to stay for a second rotation." Hann recognizes the many benefits the Guard has to offer, but also feels airmen are obligated to "do your part and earn the benefits you receive."

Serving in both the active duty Air Force and the Air National Guard, Hann has had

the fortunate experiences of working under many great supervisors. "They have taught me that in real world contingencies, core values really come into place. My supervisors have taught me to strive for professionalism and to always be straight-forward with the truth and facts. They've done this by showing me that they will always stand behind me in any situation. These are the things I have learned that I would like to pass on to others," he said.

Dedicated to self-improvement, Hann recently completed the U.S. Air Force Airman Leadership School. He has developed a Munitions Advisory Council to enhance communications between all ranks in his element.

Currently, Hann is pursuing a computer information systems degree at Manchester Community College.



Connecticut Army National Guard NCO of the Year Selected



MAJ. SCOTT WILSON
STATE PIO

Staff Sgt. George V. Barrow, Jr., became the Connecticut Army National Guard's NCO of the Year on April 6, 2002, after competing at a board at Camp Rowland.

Barrow, an Active Guard-Reserve soldier, is a Fire Direction Chief with the 2nd Battalion, 192nd Field Artillery, and is the unit's training NCO. He is a 1977 graduate of Ayer High School in Ayer, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Army in 1992, completing Basic Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. While on active duty, he served with the 1/15th Field Artillery at Camp Casey, Korea, the 4/41st Field Artillery (24th Infantry Division) and 1/10th

Field Artillery (3rd Infantry Division) at Fort Benning, Georgia, and then moved on to be an instructor at the Field Artillery Officer's Advanced Course at Fort Sill. Upon leaving active duty, he moved to Connecticut, immediately enlisted with the National Guard, and was assigned to the 192nd. His son is also a soldier with the 192nd, and will shortly report to state Officer Candidate School.

"This really means a lot to me," Barrow explains. "An NCO is a leader by example. This is something my soldiers, and peers, can look at and realize that they can do, too. It takes a lot to get to

this level, so I'm really honored."

Barrow sees himself as being 'on a mission.' "The board, and the preparation, was difficult. There is a lot of information going through your mind — but I was prepared. As is always the case, if you prepare your troops, your unit, and yourself properly, you can accomplish any mission." But, he does not see his recent success as an end point.

"There is still the region (1st Army) board, and then you have the next step for everyone east of the Mississippi, and then there is the National Board. The mission hasn't been accomplished yet."

Montanez Named CTANG Airman of the Year

SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG
PUBLIC AFFAIRS JOURNEYMAN, 103RD FIGHTER WING

"After the interview I was pretty much expecting to win because it went so well," said Senior Airman Manuel Montanez, food service specialist and assistant head chef, 103rd Air Control Squadron.

Montanez's interest in the Air Force was sparked in high school when he served in the Norwalk High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

"It was great. I did four years in high school," he said. "As a freshman I already knew I wanted to enlist. I commanded some drill teams in Yonkers and did some events for the Mayor of Norwalk. It has helped ever since basic. Montanez graduated from the JROTC program with the rank of captain.

Montanez enlisted in the Connecticut Air National Guard in August 1996.

"In high school I knew I wanted to enlist in the Air Force; but not until senior year did I decide I wanted to go on the guard," he said. "Since I wanted to go to college too, the guard was the way to make that possible. It is family orientated and it makes the working environment comfortable."

Montanez has played significant roles on all annual field training deployments. He is currently training for the assistant senior cook position within food services, 103rd Air Control Squadron.

In response to the events of September 11, Montanez volunteered to provide base security at the Orange Air National Guard Station in support of Operation Noble Eagle on active duty.

"During drill I volunteered when I heard of the security program," he said. "I started a

couple weeks later in October and it will last for a year. On drill I can still go to my shop so it does not interfere with my guard training."

Montanez supports his local community through his involvement with the Norwalk Community Center where he supervises, counsels and mentors inner-city youth.

"When one of my friends was a supervisor at the community center I volunteered," said Montanez. "I kind of got hooked on the little kids. I enjoy working with kids, where we help them with homework, math and art."

He exceeds standards in his civilian job as well, working at Sears, Roebuck and Company, and has been recognized as one of the top sales associates in electronics.



Bosco Named CTANG First Sergeant of the Year

SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG
PUBLIC AFFAIRS JOURNEYMAN, 103RD FIGHTER WING

"I was shocked when I found out how much work other people put into nominating me for this award," said Master Sgt. Doreen K. Bosco, first sergeant, 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron.

Bosco first enlisted in the Connecticut Air National Guard in April of 1986. Initially, she served in the Military Personnel Flight. In 1991, Bosco transferred to Headquarters CTANG and was assigned as the administrative assistant to the military personnel management officer. She moved to Hawaii in 1992, where she served with the Hawaii Air National Guard for two years as a full-time military personnel technician. Bosco returned to the CTANG in 1994 and served as the secretary to the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, CTANG. She was assigned as a personnel craftsman in the 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron in 1995 and assumed the additional duty of unit career advisor for the squadron in 1996. Bosco was selected as First Sergeant, 103rd AGS in February 1999.

Bosco placed "Service Before Self" when she delayed starting a new teaching job last fall to deploy as first sergeant for the 118th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron for five weeks during an AEF rotation to Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait. Putting her troops first, she worked 12-14 hour days, dedicated to coordinating billeting and handling issues as they arose. Many nights at the end of a long workday, Bosco traveled three hours to the airport to pick up squadron personnel rotating in.

"The deployment was excellent. We just did our best to keep morale high by doing things such as hosting cook-outs and delivering Gatorade and lollipops around the base," said Bosco.

"Being a first sergeant is not an easy job," according to Bosco. "But, I did it because I wanted to help make the squadron a better place and to improve morale." Bosco says that much she has accomplished has come as a result of teamwork. She works closely with the 103rd Maintenance Squadron First Sergeant, Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Robert.

"He and I accomplish a lot through a joint effort," she said.

Bosco is consistently involved in base-wide and community events. She has been an active member in the 103rd First Sergeants Council and served as a mentor for the 103rd Junior Enlisted Advisory Council. As co-founder of the CTANG Diversity Program, Bosco worked to organize a base-wide diversity festival. She also created the Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Program for children in urban communities throughout the state, which fosters goal-setting, introducing them to the dream of flying and serving their country.

Bosco holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in special education from the University of Connecticut. She is currently working as a high school special education teacher in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

(Editor's Note: After this article was written, Bosco was informed by Brig. Gen. David A. Brubaker, Deputy Director, Air



National Guard, and Chief Master Sgt. Valerie D. Benton, Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air National Guard, that she had been selected as the Air National Guard's First Sergeant of the Year. She will now move forward to contend for the Air Force level First Sergeant recognition.)

CTARNG Soldier of the Year Selected for 2002



MAJ. SCOTT WILSON
STATE PIO

On Saturday, April 6, 2002, at Camp Rowland, command sergeants major from the Connecticut Army National Guard's various units convened to select this year's Soldier of the Year. Spec. Jason L. Tucker, a combat engineer from Company C of the 242nd Engineer Battalion out of Branford, earned the top honor after his performance at the final board.

Tucker, a 22-year-old student at the University of Connecticut, is a 1998 graduate of Branford High School. After

enlisting in 2000 and performing basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Tucker was assigned to his current unit.

Tucker credits NCO (Noncommissioned Officer) leadership and mentoring for his award.

"This is really a reflection of all the great NCO's that mentored me along the way. It is not my award – it belongs to them." He specifically credits Sgt. 1st Class Daddona, a former recruiter in Branford, with giving him a leadership path to follow, just as "All the great NCOs I've served with have."

Tucker believes participation in the board made him a better soldier.

"There were so many questions, so much to learn – it was a great learning experience. The studying increased my military knowledge, and that will definitely help me be a better soldier." His message to his peers? "Do your best – go for it – always seek challenges and leadership opportunities. They will only make you better...and if you are better, so are your unit and the Army."

Tucker will compete at the 1st Army board, May 18 and 19 at Camp Edwards.

Gregoire Named CTANG Senior NCO of the Year

SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG
PUBLIC AFFAIRS JOURNEYMAN, 103RD FIGHTER WING

"I always looked up to them (senior NCOs) so to be considered among them is quite an honor," said Master Sgt. Dan L. Gregoire, radar maintenance section assistant NCOIC, 103rd Air Control Squadron.

Gregoire entered the military service as a member of the United States Air Force in April 1985.

"I was a crypto repairman in Japan for three years and then a maintenance controller in Alaska," he said. "In 1990 I separated under the palace chase program and transitioned into the guard, which was the best move I ever made. You still have the same camaraderie in the guard...but your family can settle in one place even while we can be activated and deployed."

Gregoire performs various additional duty responsibilities for the radar maintenance

section. As the radar maintenance equipment custodian, he manages more than \$11.7 million worth of equipment assets. He was personally requested by the 117th Air Control Squadron to augment their AEF deployment to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, in support of Operation Southern Watch.

During the first 36 hours following the September 11th attack on America, Gregoire remained on duty and personally ensured 100 percent continuous radar coverage of the unit's area during the unprecedented grounding of all commercial and private aircraft in the United States airspace.

"It was kind of bizarre, none of what had happened really sunk in because of the long (36 hours straight) hours," said Gregoire. "I think I worked 140 hours a week until we got relief from activating the traditional guard members."

Gregoire holds an Associate's Degree of Applied Science from the Community College of the Air Force and a Bachelor's Degree of General Studies from the University of Connecticut. He is an adjunct faculty member at Naugatuck Valley Community College where he teaches various microcomputer and networking courses.

"I am teaching fifth semester of adult education," he said. "Adult education is very fulfilling and they challenge me as much as I challenge them so I really have to be prepared. I enjoy it and it forces me to learn new computer technologies as they come out."

As an avid cyclist, Gregoire has raised more than \$20,000 for the Annual Durant's City Center Danbury Criteriums. He also volunteers to serve on the 103rd ACS Funeral Detail, honoring fallen veterans.



Split Training Option Company Battles Rappel Tower

SPEC. ELVIS R. BRAGA
65TH PCH

On a very brisk and windy Saturday, soldiers of the STOC (Split Training Option Company) were outside utilizing their skills from basic training to perform common task training at Stones Ranch in East Lyme, CT on April 6.

This company is comprised of all the soldiers who have completed Basic Combat Training (BCT) and are scheduled to get MOS qualified at Advanced Individual Training (AIT). During that year in between BCT and AIT soldiers are assigned to this unit. The mission of this unit is to teach Guard members common task training and keep soldiers thinking and acting like soldiers during that year.

The unit carried a full load with their M1's, radio communication equipment, and rucksack. Soldiers were given an azimuth to follow through the vigorous terrain of Stones Ranch. While on the tactical road march, observers were ensuring that leadership, tactical movements and noise, light, and litter discipline were followed.

"It's going good, all these guys are good," said Spec. David R. Rodriguez, Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd infantryman. "My point man was excellent, my radio operator was great". These soldiers received some training in land navigation familiarization that will help them succeed in their military career.

After the march through the woods of Stones Ranch, this unit had the opportunity to face their fear of heights, while building confidence, in battling a huge rappel tower. Most the soldiers had already rappelled before and this training would allow them to apply what they had learned. Safety was a big issue and all the



Soldiers of the Split Training Option Class (STOC) brave the winds, cold and heights to rappel down the side of a tower at Stones Ranch. The soldiers have completed Basic Combat Training and are awaiting the start of their Advanced Individual Training, while attending high school, college or working. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)

necessary steps were put in place to ensure the safety of all the guard members.

Before the soldiers can even climb up the tower countless safety precautions have to be taken. All the ropes that will be used have to be inspected to make certain that the rope is not worn or has any visible cuts. As with the rope the wood also has to be inspected. There cannot be damage of any kind to the wood such as cracks or water damage. Even after everything has been inspected there are still numerous briefings that occur, which also ensure

the safety of the soldier. After all the safety precautions take place the soldiers can start the steps required to move up the tower and rappel down.

The first step the soldiers do is transforming a long thick piece of rope into a harness that goes around the waist and legs. This swiss seat is tied around the waist with a D-ring on the end. The swiss seat and D-ring will be latched onto the main rope on the rappel tower and is how the soldier will rappel down to the ground.

By the time the first soldiers began to walk

up to the top of the tower the wind picked up and snowflakes began to drop, but nothing was going to spoil this training exercise. The morale of the unit soared as the temperature dropped. "Motivation level is very high" said Staff Sgt. Torianno Riberio Headquarters/Headquarters Detachment, State Area Command, a recruiter who was leading the soldiers in some physical training to warm up and prepare for the tower.

As the soldiers made it up to the top of the tower and prepared to rappel shouts of "lane one on rappel" were heard all the way to the bottom where the belay person would shout back "lane one on belay". This communication is vital and the rappeller knows that the belay is paying attention. The belay holds the rope at the bottom of the tower and has the ability to pull the rope and suspend the soldier rappelling down the tower. This is important in case the rappeller starts to fall the belay person pulls the rope and stops the rappeller. After the soldier is on the ground he or she calls out "lane one off rappel" and the belay calls out "lane one off belay".

After yet another training mission completed the soldiers were getting ready for some night land navigation with night vision goggles. The unit had completed day navigation earlier and this mission would test their ability with night land navigation familiarization.

Soldiers were given compasses and had to follow a certain azimuth and reach a certain point but this time they had to do it in the pitch black.

With all the guidance and leadership these soldiers receive they will be one step ahead when they are sent off to Advanced Individual Training.



Staff Sgt. Edward Young III HHD Starc, recruiter checks the load bearing hook on Pvt. Jennifer L. Kane before descending down 50ft. tower. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



Pvt. Roberto R. Padua, Company A, 1-102^d, Infantry(L) provides a lesson to Pvt. Lauren E. Williamson, 248th Engineer Company, carpenter/mason. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



Staff Sgt. Edward Young III, HHD STARC, recruiter, demonstrates the importance of equipment during safety briefing. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)



Pvt. Jennifer L. Kane, 248th Engineer Company, lowers herself into position and is assisted by Staff Sgt. Edward Young III HHD STARC, recruiter. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)

Dispatches From the Front: *Greetings from Qatar!*

TECH. SGT. BRYON TURNER, GRAPHICS NCOIC
366 AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING VISUAL INFORMATION

Good communications skills are important, especially in war. That's why the USAF called upon the Connecticut Air National Guard when it tasked the 103 Communications Flight's Visual Information section, to deploy to Qatar in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

With less than a week's notice, our four-person team including Master Sgt. Linas Venclauskas, Master Sgt. Mike Fennessy, Tech. Sgt. Bryon Turner and Senior Airman Danielle Upton hit the ground running on March 7. As a Combat Visual Information Section, we are responsible for providing the 366 Air Expeditionary Wing with a full complement of multi-media support ranging from aerial and alert photography to web design and video documentation.

Life on Al Udeid is Spartan at best. While living and working in tight quarters, personal space often becomes a luxury. But despite the seemingly primitive living conditions in "Tent City," our makeshift office tent, complete with duct tape and plywood desks, also features some state of the art equipment.



Vice President Dick Cheney greets people during a visit to the 366th Air Expeditionary Wing on March 17 at an Operation Enduring Freedom base in the Middle East. (Photo by Senior Airman Danielle Upton)

Equipment that we've been putting to good use.

Our biggest accomplishment to date was providing full media coverage of Vice President Richard B. Cheney's visit to the 366 AEW. In our short time here, Master

Sgt. Linas Venclauskas and Senior Airman Danielle Upton have had their photography featured on www.af.mil with related news articles about our base on more than one occasion.

In addition to supporting the requirements

of our commander, we regularly capture images of the 366 AEW's ongoing mission and forward our documentation to the Joint Combat Camera Center. The JCCC processes and distributes selected imagery to key users in the Pentagon, the National Capitol Region and the Unified Commands.

As members of the CTANG working side by side with active duty and reserve troops, our time here at Al Udeid is a perfect example of the "Total Force" concept. Our active duty friends seem fascinated by us, always curious about, "what we do on the outside." After the initial curiosity, the lines between active and guard have blurred and we've become one force.

The memories of September 11th are never far from our hearts and minds, helping to keep us focused on the tasks at hand when things get difficult. While we often think about our friends and family back home in Connecticut, the four of us take great pride in our service to our country. Our support to this unit and the over all mission is certainly helping to keep the proverbial "tip of the spear" as sharp as it can be, and in turn, helping to keep those we love back home a little safer and secure.

NGACT Holds its 8th Annual Conference

SPEC. JOSEPH WALLER
65TH PCH

The National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) held its 8th annual conference at the State Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill, Connecticut on Saturday, April 17 to conduct its elections and receive executive reports.

NGACT is a representative organization that was created to combine the voices of the retired and present officers and enlisted members of the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard. Affiliated organizations include the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), which serves the enlisted members of the National Guard, and the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), which serves the Guard's officers.

Attending representative and members were updated by the Lt. Col. Bill Shea, outgoing president of NGACT as to the state of ongoing and past projects. In his annual report, Shea reported the creation of the NGACT newsletter, titled the *Nutmeg Guardian* intending to put information on the organization's projects into the hands of current and potential members.

Some other projects have included organizational efforts that awarded almost \$10,000 (over the last four years) to soldiers, airmen and their families for educational assistance, and money raised for the Connecticut Children's Hospital. Shea also reported that an office for the NGACT is

located in the Hartford Armory that is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant General for the Connecticut National Guard addressed and thanked NGACT members for their hard work and reported on the organization's increasing support in the legislature and its continuing efforts to impact and effect change for Connecticut Guard members. Cugno asked members what he could do to assist in increasing membership and pledged his support for NGACT.

Further information on NGACT can be obtained by visiting www.ngact.org.



Outgoing president Lt. Col. William Shea presents a certificate of recognition to David Carlson congratulating him on being chosen as one of five recipients of this year's NGACT scholarships. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)

HELP WANTED

The 169th Leadership Regiment has part time opportunities for qualified instructors and TACs, E-7 thru 0-3. Certification classes start soon.

Contact Capt. Evon at
(860) 691-4219 for more information.

'The Bearing of a Soldier' – General George M. Cole

PFC. HOWARD MILLER
TROOP HISTORIAN
FIRST COMPANY GOVERNOR'S HORSE GUARDS

(The third in a series of biographical sketches of the Adjutants-General of Connecticut)

Born in Portsmouth England in 1853, George Malpas Cole came to the United States with his parents. Educated in public and private schools, he saw brief service in the Indiana and Massachusetts Nation Guard. On November 10, 1884 Cole began his military career in the Third Machine Gun Platoon of the Third Infantry Regiment, Connecticut National Guard. Cole became a sergeant on April 29, 1885, and commissary sergeant of the Third Infantry on August 6, 1886.

He was made first lieutenant, paymaster on January 7, 1887, and was promoted to the rank of captain, in command of Company I, Third Infantry, Connecticut National Guard, May 8, 1888, resigning that commission January 20, 1891. Again he became identified with the Third Infantry on August 15, 1891, and on May 30, 1892, he became lieutenant colonel and Brigade Adjutant. He was commissioned lieutenant colonel of the Third Infantry, August 25, 1893, and placed on the retired list June 21, 1898, to enable him to accept appointment in the Federal service upon the outbreak of the Spanish American War.

Appointed by the President as an officer of volunteers, he became Lieutenant colonel of the Fourth United States Volunteers in May 1898, holding that rank until June 8, 1899, during which time he served in Cuba.

He became Adjutant General of the State of Connecticut on January 9, 1901 with the rank of brigadier general, by appointment of Governor George P. McLean. He served in that position for 28 years. During his incumbency, Connecticut troops saw service on the Mexican border in 1916, and on the WWI battlefields of France.

While Cole was Adjutant General, two chartered units of the state militia, became cavalry troops of the National Guard. The Second Horse of New Haven became Troop A, C.N.G. in 1901 and the Hartford's First Company Governor's Horse Guards became Troop B in 1911. In 1909, the newly-constructed State Armory was dedicated under his direction.

On September 24, 1916, General Cole and Governor Marcus H. Holcomb arrived in Nogales, Arizona on an inspection tour of the Connecticut units guarding the U.S. border. They visited every unit including Troop B Cavalry in its bivouac near the small village of Arivaca.

On May 24, 1917, General Cole again went

into Federal service when he was named Disbursing Agent and Officer of the United States. He served in that capacity until May 19, 1919. His responsibilities involved the mobilization and mustering into federal service of state troops and the operation of the draft. In addition to his federal duties, he was active in recruiting campaigns to bring the guard units up to strength and was a member of the State Department of Historical Records.

The General Assembly of 1929 passed a special act authorizing the retirement of Brig. Gen. I George M. Cole with the grade of major general. Through his tenure, many significant developments took place in the Connecticut National Guard, including the addition of an air wing, tremendous war-time expansion and mechanization.

Cole married Emily Judson Beckwith of New London in 1877. They had four children, including two sons who also had distinguished military careers. George E. Cole served in Troop B, 5th Militia Cavalry and accompanied the unit to its first camp in 1911 as Quartermaster.

Upon his death from a stroke on November 23, 1933 the Hartford Times wrote: "General Cole had the bearing of a soldier and always was conscious of the obligations which his profession imposed upon him.... There



Gen. George M. Cole
1853 - 1933

are not so many professional soldiers in our states. General Cole was one of the comparatively few in Connecticut and in his fidelity to his duty and in his efficiency as an officer, an exemplar for others."

Hall of Fame Inductees Share WW II, the Connecticut National Guard and Command of the 43rd Infantry Brigade

From p. 5

Soviet aggression, as the Cold War was in its early, unpredictable stages.

The 43rd spent approximately two years protecting Europe.

Like Peterson, Negrelli has fond memories of the Guard.

"I always remember the good days. The bad days, I've forgotten," Negrelli said. "I stayed in for 34 years because I always liked it."

As both men were recently reminded, with their nomination for the OCS Hall of Fame, the Connecticut Guard has fond memories of their leadership.

"They had a big influence on many of us who served under them as young officers," Zembrzuski said. "They were significant contributors to developing the officer corps of the Connecticut Guard."

Zembrzuski named several officers who served under Peterson and Negrelli, including: Maj. Gen. Cugno, the first Connecticut Guardsmen to be inducted into the Hall, Maj. Gen. David Gay, and Maj. Gen. John Gereski, both of whom also rose to the rank of adjutant general of Connecticut, among others. Several other officers who Zembrzuski said were influenced by Peterson

and Negrelli, include Col. (Ret.) Brian Phipps, and the late Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Steven Cordon, both members of the Hall of Fame.

Zembrzuski said Cugno was the driving force behind nominating Peterson and Negrelli. "As soon as he (Cugno) found out that they were qualified, he wanted to make sure they were nominated as soon as possible. A board of directors meets every January, and examines the nominees. The selections are made strictly from a military point of view."

OCS graduates who rise to the rank of colonel are automatically qualified for nomination by members of the Hall of Fame. OCS graduates of lower ranks are eligible for nomination, if they've contributed significantly to OCS, or have achieved great accomplishments in civilian life. All nominees are reviewed by the board of directors. Induction is not automatic.

Peterson and Negrelli said they're proud to be among the approximately 2,200 members of the Hall. It was also memorable that Col. Robert Nett, one of the greatest heroes of Ft. Benning, and of the Connecticut National Guard attended the ceremony.

"To have someone with the Medal of Honor, who just happened to come out of the 43rd Division, attend the ceremony, it's pretty

amazing," Negrelli said. "I'm not usually at a loss for words, but it's difficult to express the feeling." Another one of Negrelli's heroes attended the ceremony. One of his four daughters made the trip from her home in Virginia. He said that made the ceremony extra special. Also, at the reception following the induction ceremony, the attendees saluted Negrelli who was celebrating his 60th anniversary of joining the Army.

Negrelli's career spanned 34 years. He joined the regular Army in April 1942, serving until 1948. He joined the Connecticut Guard just a few months later, and rose through the ranks. After commanding the 43rd Brigade, he retired in December 1975.

Among his numerous awards are the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the ETO Victory Medal, the Army Occupation Europe Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge.

After returning to Connecticut from his regular Army duty, Negrelli went to work for a printing company in Deep River, retiring 38 years later, in 1985. He's very active with the American Legion post in Deep River, he's a trustee of the Deep River Historical Society, and is president of the Deep River

Alumnae Association.

Negrelli has four children, nine grandchildren, and a great grandson.

Peterson, who was born in Sweden, but came to Connecticut when he was three, served 29 years in the military. After joining the regular Army at age 21, he served from 1942 until December 1947. He joined the Guard a month later and rose through the ranks. After commanding the 43rd Brigade, he became the personnel officer for the Connecticut Army National Guard. He retired in March, 1973.

Among his numerous awards are the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Upon returning to Connecticut from active duty, he went to work for the Hartford Electric Light Company, later becoming director of employee relations. The company eventually merged into Northeast Utilities. He retired from the company in 1985. He is a member of several veterans' organizations, including the VFW, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the 43rd Infantry Division, the 442nd Regiment Combat Team, the Officers' Club of Connecticut and the Retired Officers' Association. He and his wife Marguerite have three daughters.

Connecticut Military Department News

New Commandant of Second Company Governor's Horse Guard is Also a New "First"

2nd LT. ROBERT L. DAHM
SECOND COMPANY, GHG PAO

The Second Company Governor's Horse Guard, one of the four Connecticut State Militia Units has made news. Originally chartered in 1808, the unit for the first time in its 194-year history has elected a woman as Commandant. Maj. Janis Arena E. Arena of Monroe, Conn. won a spirited election. Her dedication to duty and leadership abilities have propelled her through the ranks to the top position in a short period of time.

Arena was the squad leader of her recruit class, earned the Equestrian Dressage Badge and qualified as an Expert Marksman. She has experienced everything from mucking out horse stalls to performing in front of President George W. Bush at his Inaugural Parade last year.

Arena is the daughter of Colonel William Eichorn class of 1950 U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Having been raised in a military family, she discovered horses while her father was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.



Maj. Janis Arena (center) receives her new rank as commandant from Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, adjutant general, and Maj. Richard Belliveau during ceremonies held in Newtown. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Robert Dahm)

Arena began riding at age six and as an adult found both her love for the military and horses a perfect combination in the Horse Guard.

Arena, however, is not so comfortable with becoming a history maker.

"The fact that I am the first woman to be elected commandant, is not the reason I ran for the position. It was my desire to do the best I could for the Troop and move it forward and that is why I ran."

Arena prefers the sidelines when it comes to all the attention, and would rather focus on the business at hand, of running the Troop. Arena would prefer the Troop remain in the spotlight not her.

Arena's dedication and positive can-do attitude has been infectious among the membership. She has led by example and inspired other Troopers to become more involved and given them the confidence to be able to accomplish any task presented to them.

The Troop consists of 40 highly motivated volunteers who selflessly devote more than 500 hours each of their personal time to the Troop per year. Why do they do it? They are all dedicated to working with the horses as well as serving the citizenry of the State of Connecticut. Both are equally rewarding.

The role of women in the military has changed progressively through the years and with Arena now leading the Troop, it has had a positive effect for all. Both male and female Troopers look forward in serving with Arena. As always, both the Troop and Arena are, and remain "Ready to Serve."

New Cavalry Recruits Mount Up!

PFC. HOWARD MILLER
TROOP HISTORIAN
1st COMPANY GOVERNOR'S HORSE GUARD

The 1st Company Governor's Horse Guards Recruit Class of 2002 has begun its cavalry training in Avon. In preparation for becoming troopers in the Horse Guards, thirteen men and women have begun learning dismounted drill, horse anatomy, grooming, barn procedures, tack care and other skills necessary for their integration into the troop. Soon the recruits will begin the equitation phase of their training. Classes on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings will continue through late July. The training is conducted by seasoned NCOs, led by 1st Sgt. Chris Miller.

Prior to summer camp, a series of examinations in the skills and knowledge learned, including troop history, will culminate in the "Major's Ride," a test of each recruit's riding proficiency. This exercise is overseen by the unit Commandant, Maj. Richard Belliveau, and the Executive Officer, Capt. Andrew Arsenault.

Those recruits who successfully complete the training will go to Camp Rowland with the Horse Guards this summer where they will work in mess and stables. Their many weeks of hard work will lead to their graduation and awarding of spurs. One outstanding recruit will also be named "Honor Graduate" of the class.

Cheryl Harrington, a West Hartford mother of three, works in Birth to Three with families who have babies and toddlers with neurological problems. Despite her busy schedule she decided the chance to be a trooper was too good to pass up.

"My childhood love of horses and riding had recently been rekindled by my own daughters' passion for them, and the Horse Guard seemed like not only an enjoyable way, but a useful and historically interesting way to work with horses again."

Recruit Michael Downes, joined the class because of the history and traditions of the troop. A legislative aide in the Connecticut House of Representatives, this North Branford resident comes from several generations of military men, including a great-great grandfather who served in the cavalry during the Spanish American war.

"Even though we have spent much of our time cleaning stalls, the Horse Guard has been a fantastic adventure already," said Harrington, "so onward 'Ho' we go."

Dignitaries Help Horse Guard Break New Ground in Avon

PFC. HOWARD MILLER
TROOP HISTORIAN
FIRST COMPANY GOVERNOR'S HORSE GUARD

Under beautiful sunny skies, a groundbreaking was held on April 16, to mark the beginning of construction of a new administrative building for the First Company Governor's Horse Guard.

Master of ceremonies P.J. Delahunty Jr. Chief Deputy Commissioner of the State Department of Public Works, introduced a list of honored guests which included T.R. Anson, Commission of the State Department of Public Works, Lt. Gen. William A. Cugno, State Adjutant General, Richard W. Hines, Chairman of the Avon Town Council, and M. Jodi Rell, Lt. Governor of the State of Connecticut.

Some 150 persons listened intently as Lt. Governor Rell pointed to the long history of service of the Horse Guards, and referenced the upcoming 225th anniversary of the troop in 2003. She noted that the unit has served in 1916 on the Mexican border and in both World Wars.

Cugno said the 7,000 square foot facility will provide the 1st Company Governor's Horse Guard and the Connecticut National Guard with modern office space for administrative functions, training facilities and a recruiting and retention office.



The new administrative building at the Avon Horse Guard facility will house office space for the 1st Company Governor's Horse Guard as well as a recruiting and retention office for the National Guard. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)

Town of Avon Council Chairman Richard Hines noted the good relations that have always existed between the town and the Horse Guards. The military reservation constitutes an important feature in Avon's open space plan.

Also attending the ceremony were State Senator Thomas J. Herlihy and State Representative Rob Heagney, who were important in securing funding for the project.

As noted by Public Works Commissioner Anson, the \$874,000 project is being administered jointly by the State DPW and Connecticut National Guard and is

scheduled for completion in the Fall of 2002. The building has been designed by Bianco Giolitto Weston Architects of Middletown, Conn. The primary contractor is Cutter Enterprises of Tolland.

Also participating in the ceremonial hefting of shovels, were two past commandants of the Horse Guard, Col. Everett Kandarian and Lt. Col. Warren Lane. In concluding the program, Maj. Richard J. Belliveau, Commandant of the First Company Governor's Horse Guard noted the assistance and cooperation of the many people, including the members of the Troop, who have worked hard to make the project a reality.

Take Our Children to Work Day A H

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newt



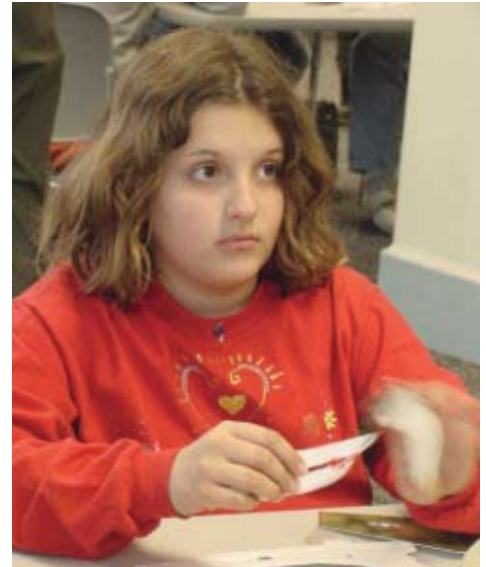
Matthew Zarzycka



William Womack, Jr.



Master Sgt. Frank Anello and
Corissa Anello



Kelsey Tavino



Cassandra Grenier



Amanda Zarzycka



The crew of Take Your Children to Work Day: Parents and their children, ages 10 and under, spent the day at Bradley Air National Guard Base. As part of the national event, the Air National Guard and State Military Department spent the day visiting helicopter flight simulators at the StarBase at Brainard Airport.

A Hit With Children and Parents

bbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO



Stacy Cloutier



Benjamin Sordo



Children learn how to use the flight simulators from one of the StarBase instructors at Brainard Airport. The children spent the day with their parents and Guardsmen as part of Take Our Children to Work Day.



Richard Rivera, Jr.



Jason Cannata



Participants in the annual Take Our Children to Work Day were able to climb in Blackhawk helicopters, Hueys, and A-10s throughout the day. They also had the chance to try on night vision goggles and took their turns at flight simulations while visiting the StarBase facility. Thirty children and their parents spent the day discovering the opportunities offered in aviation.



And their children stand out of the rain under the protective wing of an A-10. During the annual event, children from the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and other military facilities and then got to try their hands at the opportunities offered in aviation.

Retirees Picnic - 2002**August 21th
1200-1700****Camp Rowland, Niantic CT**

Bring a guest!

Active Duty Welcome!

Pass the word!

Meet old friends!



Raffle! Prizes!

Lots of Food,
Beer & Soda!

Live Music!

Card Games!

**Come Join the Fun!
Mark your calendar!**

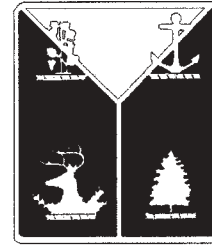
Detach and return to COL(Ret) Bob Kelly

2002 Retirees Picnic **Cost:** \$18.00/person by July 19th
\$20.00/person after July 19th

Name: _____ Rank: _____ ☐ Army ☐ Air
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: () _____

Return with payment:
COL (Ret) Bob Kelly
214 Church Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109
1-860-529-6851

☐ I would like to volunteer **Make Check payable to: NGACT**

WARNING ORDER**State Military Department
Regimental Dining-In***All Connecticut active and retired Guard and Militia officers are invited.*

Thursday November 7, 2002
 Aqua Turf, Southington
 Hosted by the 143rd Area Support Group

Don't miss this opportunity to share in a time-honored tradition and an evening of comradeship. Mark your calendar now and watch for more information to follow.

4th Annual Space and Aviation Day Coming Soon

Soar In A Tethered Hot Air Balloon, View Military Aircraft Up Close Or Watch Connecticut Firefighters Battle Live Fires. These Activities And More At This Year's Space And Aviation Day At Bradley International Airport

On Saturday, June 1, 2002, Bradley International Airport will host the fourth annual Space and Aviation Day from 9:30 am until 3 pm.

The free event will take place at three airport venues - the Connecticut Air National Guard, the Connecticut Fire Academy, and the New England Air Museum. A wide range of family-oriented displays, activities and demonstrations will reflect the space and aviation theme.

Specific attractions include:

Air National Guard - Military fighter and support aircraft from bases throughout the country will be on display; Connecticut State Police will feature dive and SWAT teams, major crime van, canine unit, DARE and the children's identification unit for lost and abused children; food and refreshments served by the Windsor Locks Lions Club.



A scene from last year's event at Bradley.

Connecticut Fire Academy - Live fire demonstrations; Kid's Fire Safety House will teach children how to survive a house fire; giant inflatable games; food and refreshments.

New England Air Museum - Vintage aircraft displays; visit the newest attraction, a spectral imaging exhibit which details the history of Connecticut's aviation pioneers;

take the new audio tour and listen to detailed descriptions of the Museum's many exhibits. Follow event signage from Rt. 75 and Rt. 20. Parking directions will be posted accordingly. All event parking is free of charge.

This event is planned and coordinated by Bradley Family Day, Inc., a nonprofit group of volunteers comprised of public and

private organizations located at Bradley International Airport. Last year's event was attended by 5,200 people and raised more than \$52,000. Bradley Family Day, Inc. donates all proceeds from their events to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. All contributions are used to pay for Connecticut and Massachusetts children to attend this extraordinary camp.

Founded in 1988 by Paul Newman, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp provides love, hope and joy to over 1,000 children with cancer, sickle cell anemia, HIV/AIDS, and other blood diseases. Year-round programs for campers, parents and well siblings continue from fall to spring with 3,500 families being served. During summer session's, campers enjoy nature, swimming, theatre, art, poetry, singing and horseback riding. There is a medical clinic providing round-the-clock care. All programs are free of charge. The camp relies on the generosity of individuals, businesses, foundations and special events such as Space and Aviation Day for continued support.

Flying Yankee Easter Egg-stravaganza a Big Hit

STAFF SGT. STEVE MCKAY
103RD FW PA

The wing family support program hosted and Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, March 24 at Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, Conn.

Guard members and their families were treated to a full day of fun, frolic, food and activities. All this was made possible by the hard work and dedication of a small, dedicated staff and unselfish volunteers. Master Sgt. Marsha Blessing and Senior Master Sgt. Karen Havens, both of the Logistics Group, took the lead organizing the event and creating treats for the more than 215 children who participated. A group of 40 volunteers cooked, cleaned, set-up, baked and hid the ever precious Easter Eggs to make the day a spectacular rainbow colored success.

Col. Dan Scafe, Commander, 103rd Fighter Wing, reprised his role as *Easter Bunny*, joined by Senior Airman Julie Bragg, public affairs specialist as *Miss Easter Bunny*. Deanise Shewokis, lead volunteer Family Support joined the party as *Yellow Duck*.

"I enjoy working with kids, I always volunteer to help out," said Shewokis as she was having her photo taken with Col. Jack Swift, Commander 103rd Maintenance Squadron

Children are the focus of the Flying Yankee Easter Egg Hunt and they were well served at this year's event. A six-foot rabbit greeted families upon arrival at the Air Guard Base then folks were checked in, given individual gift baskets and had their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny.

Volunteers were setup throughout the Air Guard headquarters building with arts and crafts, face painting and other activities for the kids. At noon guests were escorted to the dining hall for a healthy lunch.

If you have never experienced the rumble of 200 kids as they charge out on their quest for the ever concealed and magical Easter egg you have not been to a Flying Yankee egg hunt. The back woods and meadows of the base were sprinkled with more than 800 plastic eggs containing all sorts of small toys and candy. The children were broken into three age groups and then released on a search and destroy mission of the most urgent nature. "Go!" was the word as the children raced out in a flurry burrowing into every crack and crevice to find their target. Families shuffled behind youngsters trying to capture the bright eyes and smiling faces of their brood on film. All of the kids came home with eggs to spare.

After the egg hunt the children were invited to another Flying Yankee treat. The ever-popular "DROP BAG." A large, nine-foot-long goodie bag is filled with all sorts of candy, toys, and prizes and hung from the rafters. All the children gather under the bag in a mass, then the bag is ripped open and a frenzy of excited youngster's swarm the floor and claim their bounty.

The Air Guard's fourth annual Egg Hunt was co-sponsored by the Lego Corporation.



The Easter Bunny had plenty of hugs as well as eggs and baskets to give out at Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)



The Easter Bunny made a guest appearance and handed out baskets to the children of the Air Guard. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve McKay, 103rd FW PA)



Meghan McCawley enjoys a piece of bacon at the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



Arts and crafts were a big hit with the kids at the Air Guard's Easter Eggstravaganza. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve McKay, 103rd FW PA)



The Air Guard's Easter Eggstravaganza had the Easter Bunny seeing double at Bradley Air Base. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve McKay, 103rd FW PA)

The Easter Bunny makes a Visit to Camp Rowland

SPEC. JOSEPH WALLER
65th PCH

Where do you find 30 pounds of bacon, 300 pounds of pancake mix, 400 sausage links, 128 children, and a giant bunny? Why, at the Camp Rowland Easter Celebration.

The Easter Bunny came out in full force on Saturday, March 30 at Camp Rowland, managing to put more than 2,500 candy-filled plastic eggs in hiding for the children. Assisting the Easter Bunny for the third year at the camp were a combination of members from the State Family Support Program, Connecticut Guard members, retirees, family assistance coordinators and Air Guard volunteers.

One happy child, thirteen-year-old Shamika Wilson, said, "I think it was very good for us. They are all very nice, they didn't have to do any of this."

There to share the day with the children were their parents. Shaun Odea, a second lieutenant in the Army National Guard, attended with his daughter Casey and had this to say about the Family Support Program, which organized and sponsored the event: "I like the family support. They do a great job of bringing the National Guard community together."

Twenty-year-old Jessica McKenna, a volunteer and Family Assistance Coordinator, agreed, saying, "It is a lot of fun...having your family down here, being together as a family is important."

Despite the cloudy sky, the event was well attended.

"I'm really impressed that there are so many people because of the weather," McKenna said.

The main event, after breakfast, began with the annual "Bunny Hop Parade" led by the stylin' Easter bunny in a sleek gray convertible. At the end of the parade, the children were separated into their age groups (0-2, 3-4, 5-7, and 8-10) and with the sound of a foghorn, they began collecting eggs as all the parents and volunteers looked on.

This year's event set a record for the number of eggs put out at Camp Rowland and had record attendance. When asked why, Kim Hoffman, the Co-Coordinator of the event along with the Easter Bunny, said, "This is the third year we've done this. I guess it's just caught on."

Warning Order

Retirement Party for

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Primett

Saturday, August 31, 2002

1800 hours: Social Hour

1900 hours: Dinner

Watch *The Guardian* for more information

\$45 per person includes open bar, dinner and gift

Make checks payable to "Primett Retirement" and send to First Sgt. John Carragher, National Guard Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105



Retirement Dinner In Honor Of

Brigadier General Lawrence Rusconi



- Date:** Saturday, 8 June 2002
- Time:** 6:30pm Seating - 7:00pm Dinner
- Place:** Zandri's Stillwood Inn
1074 South Colony Road, Route 5
Wallingford, CT 06492
(203) 269-6695
- Dress:** Military Personnel are encouraged to wear the service dress uniform, civilian attire is also permissible.
(Men, Business suit or sports coat. Women, Cocktail dress or business suit.)
- Cost:** \$35.00 Per Person
(Payable to: HQ CTANG Activity Fund)
- RSVP:** 29 May 2002

For Ticket Information Please Contact

Toni Martucci, HQ CTANG, Hartford Armory - 524-4955
Claire Potier, Soldier-Airman Support Center, Newington - 878-6713
Leslie Wheeler, 103FW Finance Office - 292-2778
Debra Weeks - 103ACS - 795-2936

NGACT: President's Closing Words

LT. COL. BILL SHEA

This is my last opportunity to address you via the *Guardian* as President of the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT). I must say that it has been a great honor to serve as the President of NGACT for the past two years. The challenges have been many, but rest assured NGACT has always addressed and looked out for the best interests of our Guardsmen.

NGACT is an active organization, supporting the needs of our guardsmen. We have had some great successes. Our presence and stature at the national level has increased. We have interacted with senators, congressmen and their staffers. We have moved in to a new dimension in the political arena. We have increased our involvement with the Adjutant General's federal and state legislative programs. NGACT has a strong and active scholarship program. With this year's scholarship program, almost \$10,000 will have been awarded to our soldiers, airmen and families for educational assistance in the past four years. The NGACT Golf Tournament has risen in excess of \$20,000 for the Connecticut Children's Hospital during the same time. We have a simple, but comprehensive web site that provides a great deal of information to our members.

There are areas that need expanded involvement and improvement within NGACT. Our membership continues to have ups and downs. We have increased our internal membership tracking systems, but our annual notification for membership renewal needs to improve. We need to communicate better and more often with our membership. We have done this primarily via the *Guardian*. We are finally getting our newsletter off the press. This needs to be at a minimum a quarterly publication, distributed be numerous mediums (e-mail, direct mailing, and via the web site). We need to get increased volunteer involvement and to better connect with our retirees. We need to expand the committees of NGACT and to increase our footprint within the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS).

There is one thing that I ask of you. NGACT is an organization of volunteers. These volunteers come from the membership (active and retired). For the past few years, our volunteers have worked very hard to support the activities and events of the organization. This group of volunteers has been very small. If we are to move forward as an organization, we will need more involvement from our members who volunteer. NGACT does not need a lot of your time, just enough to make an impact on the organization in support of the Connecticut National Guard. Every volunteer contribution helps the entire organization. With a potential membership of more than 5,000 Army and Air National Guardsmen, not to include retirees, we have the potential to be an even greater organization.

We need your support. We need volunteers for various committees to include membership, information, newsletter, NGAUS, EANGUS, fund raising, scholarship, and in support of numerous activities. Many of these committees and activities do not require a lot of time. If you are interested in participating

in the activities of the NGACT and volunteering your time, please contact me at my e-mail address william.shea@ct.ngb.army.mil or contact the NGACT Executive Director, Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Joe Amatruda at joseph.amatruda@snet.net or at (860) 247-5000. We will get back to you with some ways in which you can assist and support the NGACT.

There are a number of people that I need to thank who have volunteered their time over the past few years. First of all, I'd like to thank my predecessor, Master Sgt. Tom Donlon. Tom worked hard to further the association and to increase its viability. Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Godburn and a small supporting cast of hard-core golfers have been instrumental in the success of the NGACT Golf Tournament. It has become a great fundraiser for the Connecticut Children's Hospital and for the NGACT Scholarship Program. Members of the executive council who have been very active and supportive include Tech. Sgt. Claire Potier, Master Sgt. Sabrina Gilfurt, Maj. Vin O'Neill, Staff Sgt. Dan Damon, Capt. Wayne Ferris, Col. Tony Vallombroso, and First Sgt. Rich Miller. Maj. Trish Nicholson has kept busy as the secretary for NGACT. As treasurer, Capt. Dave Fecso has done a tremendous job for the past four years in monitoring and maintaining the finances of the association. You should rest assured that he is always keeps a close eye on the finances of the association. Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton has always been a very big supporter of NGACT and has always been accommodating to my articles for the *Guardian* and her coverage of NGACT-sponsored events has been tremendous. She and Maj. Whitford have really put together a first class publication. There is one extremely dedicated individual keeping the association going - Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Joe Amatruda. Joe has been the unsung hero, dedicating a great deal of personal time, with little to no remuneration for his efforts. Joe, I cannot thank you enough for your efforts on behalf of NGACT.

Last of all I'd like to thank our Adjutant General, Maj. Gen William A. Cugno, for the opportunity to work closely with him and his staff in furthering the needs of the soldiers and airmen of the Connecticut Army National Guard. Through his efforts, I have had to opportunity to represent both him and Connecticut's Guardsmen at some very high levels. I have had the opportunity to meet with senators, congressmen, congressional staffers, and some of the senior leadership of the Army and Air National Guard. It was an opportunity that I may never have had without his sponsorship.

It is with mixed emotions that I pass on the guidon to the next president. I have been involved with the NGACT as a member of its executive council since its inception in 1994 and prior to that I was a member of the executive council of the Connecticut National Guard Officer's Association. The time that I have formerly dedicated to NGACT business will now be put towards my family, career and education. I have enjoyed my association with you and will continue to be an active member and volunteer with NGACT. SEMPRE VOLANS

ESGR: Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

End of Deployment: Are Your Rights Secure?

Lt. COL. (RET.) HARRY RITSON
ESGR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Employment Security is the most important protection under the Uniformed Services Employment / Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Enacted in 1994, but not well understood by many employers, the Act provides employment protection against penalties and discrimination surrounding your activation and deployment.

Basically it states that an individual should be returned to a job and status where they would have been had they not been activated. In short, there should not be any penalty for serving your Country!

Some of the more important provisions state that:

- Your job must be made available to you immediately upon your request. The one provision is that you must request it within a specified time period that varies based on your length of service.

- You are entitled to any benefits (raises, promotions, etc.) that others in your same employment category received during your activation.

- Your insurance coverage should also begin immediately – including that of your dependents.

- You should be afforded the opportunity to “make whole” your pension plan. If that requires that you pay in money to cover the period of your activation, you have three times the length of your activation to make the payments.

If you have run into any difficulty in any of these areas, or you have any questions concerning any of your employment rights, please call our Ombudsman, Captain Thomas Langlais, (860) 283-4222. The Connecticut Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) maintains this Ombudsman Position as a service to all serving Guard Personnel, Reservists and their employers. We are prepared to inform, educate or mediate whatever employment problems arise based on your desires.

If you are more comfortable, please contact ESGR’s “Mission One” briefer – the one that briefs you unit at least once each year. Their name and number is on the poster located on your unit’s bulletin board.

Inside OCS: *Being a Good Leader is the Goal*

OC CRYSTAL COPELAND
OCS CLASS 47

While deciding whether or not to enroll in the OCS program, I constantly thought about what it meant to be an officer and how I would use this position to ultimately improve the standards of the Army. Being that I am prior military, I already have a sense of what is expected of officers verses what officers actually do. Before joining OCS, it was instilled in me that if you knew how to sit down, give orders and show up for final formation, you were officer material. Since becoming an OCS candidate, my opinions have dramatically changed.

The amount of responsibility placed on an officer outweighs anything I ever imagined. You are the leader. You are held liable for all that happens or does not happen. It is your duty to ensure the safety and health of your soldiers. It is your responsibility to make sure orders are carried out to standard.

Throughout the first two phases of the OCS training program things were, and still are, very intense. No matter where you are, whether or not you need them, the TACs

are just a yell away. Often when you least expect it, the TAC staff arrives, willing and waiting, to provide as much hands-on training as you can handle. In fact, I’ve received quite a bit. In addition, I’ve gained a significant amount of military knowledge and look forward to learning more.

As a future leader, it is my goal to ensure that the Army takes care of each and every soldier. I will continuously strive to break down the many barriers that limit the Army’s ability to better support soldiers, in hopes that through time, there will be an increase and improvement in the opportunities and quality services offered. In addition, I will continue to perfect those around me as well as myself.

OCS has taught me to be a leader. As an individual in a leadership position, one must play the part. It is essential to obtain the trust and respect of your soldiers. It is vital that you remain calm, confident and in control at all times. Soldiers need a leader whom they can follow with pride. My goal is to be that leader.

Closing the Back Door: *CTARNG Receives High Marks for Strength Maintenance*

Lt. COL. MICHAEL VASILE
COMMANDER, RECRUITING AND RETENTION FORCE

The National Guard Bureau recently released first quarter strength maintenance results for the fifty-four states and territories and the Connecticut Army National Guard received top marks.

The Connecticut Army National Guard achieved an excellent rating based upon the Readiness Planning Guide used by the National Bureau to assess a State or Territory’s Strength Maintenance Readiness Posture. The Connecticut Army National Guard was the only state within the northeast region to receive this rating and only one of nine other states to achieve this rating nationwide.

The Readiness Planning Guide is comprised of fourteen specific categories that are assigned numerical point values to determine a State or Territory’s overall rating. Categories cover attrition management, retention, enlistment production and overall state end strength.

The Connecticut Army National Guard received maximum available points in controlling training pipeline losses, careerist reenlistments, non-prior service enlistment quality, and high school graduate enlistment production. These achievements are the direct result of the quality strength

maintenance programs conducted in state that influence these ratings.

Programs that have been key to retention and attrition management improvement include the Split Option Training Company (STOC) program for phase one soldiers awaiting return to AIT, First Line Leader Training, the State Retention Awards Program along with many other strength maintenance programs conducted at the unit level, not the least of which has been good individual and collective training.

As for enlistment production quality the credit goes to the Recruiting and Retention Force Strength Maintenance NCO’s who effectively use a number of high school programs to attract quality applicants and offer educational opportunities, the most important of which is the tuition waiver program that affords CTARNG soldiers the unique opportunity to attend any state college or university tuition free.

The Connecticut Army National Guard continues to be recognized for its achievements in the Army National Guard Leadership’s fiscal year 2002 strength readiness focus because of the commitment and dedication to service of each of our guard members who deserve the credit for placing Connecticut on top.

Annual
CT
AVCRAD

Tag Sale

Saturday, June 15
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

139 Tower Avenue
Groton/New
London Airport

Announcing the Second Annual Aviation Ball



A military ball, hosted by the 2/126 Aviation Regiment, will be held Friday, May 17, 2002 at the Marriott in Farmington, Conn. The event begins at 6:30 PM and ends at 12:30 AM. It is open to all military personnel, their spouses or guests and military retirees. Highlights of the evening include recognition of some retirees and the command enlisted personnel.

The meal includes hors d'oeuvres, salad, choice of baked scrod, chicken francaise, London broil, and dessert.

Tickets are available by contacting Maj. Ed Barry at (860) 386-4045. A discount room rate is available for \$89 per night.

In Defense of Connecticut's Children:

Scholarships Awarded to Connecticut Counterdrug Leaders

COUNTERDRUG STAFF WRITERS

People often use an expression that "opportunity knocks" and that that one must open the door and let it in. Maj. Tim Krusko, Counterdrug Coordinator, and Capt. Anne-Marie Garcia, Drug Demand Reduction Manager, recently used a time tested SWAT method of breaking the door down and snatching opportunity from within.

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, California announced a new master's level distance-learning program addressing issues in drug control strategy and policy. Krusko and Garcia were the first two applicants in the country. The program was open to all qualified applicants from the federal government and armed services involved in drug control efforts, both at home and abroad. Almost simultaneously National Guard Bureau - Counterdrug (NGB-CD) offered twenty scholarships for the program. More than one hundred applicants applied for the scholarships and Connecticut was awarded two. Lt. Col. Russ Haurd, Training Officer NGB-CD, joked that it was, "easier to award Krusko and Garcia the scholarships than having them call him everyday checking their status."

This is the first computer based interactive program to be offered by the Program for Drug Control Strategy and Policy at the Naval Postgraduate School. This newly established interagency program combines National Guard seed money with the academic resources of the Naval Postgraduate School. Efforts are underway to identify a consortium of long-term resource sponsors to expand the capacity to educate civilian officials and military officers regarding interagency drug control policy and strategy development.

Beginning April 1, 2002, the two leaders of the Connecticut Counterdrug Program will start the first four-month web based course that concludes with a week long, twenty-five contact hours, capstone seminar in Monterey, California. Each succeeding course offering will follow essentially the same format. Naval Postgraduate School advisors estimate that five to six hours per week will be required to keep up with the academic requirements. Topics are organized according to a weekly schedule, requiring the students to complete a given amount of work each week. Students will also have to log in during specific periods to engage in debates and discussions with guest drug control experts and instructors.

The inaugural course for Krusko and Garcia is *Introduction to Drug Control Strategy and Policy*. The purpose of the course is to provide a broad perspective on national drug control policy that will give practitioners an understanding of their place within overall strategy, enhance their current effectiveness, and prepare them to play a

policy role in the future. To this end, the course covers the following topics: The evolution of drug production, trafficking, and consumption in the United States and abroad, and the social and political consequences of the drug trade (including its links to terrorist activities); The factors shaping the formulation of domestic and international drug control policy, including the presidential, congressional, and bureaucratic politics involved; The challenges of implementing domestic and international drug control policy (with particular emphasis on interagency and international cooperation); The effectiveness of various demand side and supply side drug control strategies based on relevant performance measures of effectiveness and the latest research available.

This course is the first in a series of three distance-learning courses addressing the key issues that face the drug control community. Krusko and Garcia will move on to course number two, *Comparative Regional Drug Problems and State Responses*, in the August / September time frame. The third course in January is titled, *Selected Topics in Drug Control Strategy and Policy*. The Naval Postgraduate School will identify additional required courses that fill out the program at a later date.

The Naval Postgraduate School is a fully accredited graduate institution and successful completions of course work may be applied towards an M.A. degree, either through a university in the student's home community or at the Naval Postgraduate School. Naval Postgraduate School requires all students accepted for admission possess, at a minimum, a baccalaureate degree or an equivalent. Course work must have been completed at a recognized university or college with a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Both Krusko and Garcia intend to complete the master's program at the Naval Postgraduate School.

Krusko is a 1979 graduate of Stonehill College in North Easton, Mass., with a major concentration in Political Science and a minor in English Studies. He was assigned as the Counterdrug Coordinator in July 2001, and is a member of the J-5 Section, HHD STARC.

Garcia graduated in 1991 from the University of Maryland with a B.S. degree, majoring in Journalism, and received an M.S.W. from the Southern Connecticut State University in 2001. She has been with the Counterdrug Program for eight years, working as an Intelligence Analyst for the FBI until her assignment in August 2001 as Drug Demand Reduction Manager and Operations Officer. She is the Commander of the 141st Medical Company in New Britain.

Legal Affairs:

Hazardous Duty Area Soldiers Earn IRS Deadline Extension

CAPT. TIMOTHY TOMCHO
JAG OFFICE

To lessen the burden upon soldiers deployed to either a combat zone or a qualified hazardous duty area (QHDA) Congress created tax filing extensions and income tax exclusions. For taxation purposes, the terms combat zone and QHDA are used synonymously. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia after November 21, 1995 and the area designated as Operation Allied Force after March 24, 1999 is a QHDA. Thus, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) permits qualifying members of the Armed Forces (those who deployed there) additional time to take care of tax matters. This additional time is called a "deadline extension."

The deadline for taking actions with the IRS is extended for at least 180 days after the later of (1) the last day the taxpayer is in the QHDA, or (2) the last day of any continuous qualified hospitalization for injury from service in the QHDA. Qualified hospitalization is hospitalization resulting from an injury received while serving in the combat zone. Beyond the 180 days, the deadline is also extended by the number of days that were left for the member to take action with the IRS when he entered the QHDA. If the member entered the QHDA before the time to take the action began, the deadline is extended by the entire time he has to take the action. For example, if a soldier was in the QHDA from September 15, 2001 - April 15, 2002, then an additional 105 days (January 1, 2002 - April 15, 2002) to take action (file taxes) accrues. Thus, the filing deadline for the 2001 tax year would be extended 10 1/2 months (180 days + 105 days) to March 1, 2003.

Spouses of individuals who served in a combat zone are entitled to the same deadline extension with two exceptions. The extension does not apply to a spouse for any tax year beginning more than two years after the date that combat activities end. The extension does not apply to a spouse for any period the qualifying individual is hospitalized in the United States for injuries incurred in a combat zone.

Members of the Armed Forces who served in the HQDA may also exclude certain pay from their income. They did not have to receive the pay while in the HQDA, but it must have been earned for service there or for a period during which they were hospitalized as a result of their service there. The following military pay is also excludable from income.

1. Active duty pay earned in any month they served in a combat zone. Military members (enlisted or commissioned warrant

- officers), who serve in a combat zone during any part of a month, can exclude all of their basic pay for that month from income. For 2001, commissioned officers may exclude up to \$5,043 of their pay each month during any part of which they served in a combat zone.
2. A dislocation allowance if the move begins or ends in a month they served in a combat zone.
3. A reenlistment bonus if the voluntary extension or reenlistment occurs in a month they served in a combat zone.
4. Pay for accrued leave earned in any month they served in a combat zone.
5. Pay received for duties as a member of the armed forces in clubs, messes, post and station theaters, and other non-appropriated fund activities. The pay must be earned in a month the member served in a combat zone.
6. Awards for suggestions, inventions, or scientific achievements members are entitled to because of a submission they made in a month they served in a combat zone.

Members of the Armed Forces who served in Bosnia should write "COMBAT ZONE" along the top of the tax return. To assist taxpayers, the IRS created a special e-mail address, mailto:combatzone@irs.gov, to receive inquiries combat-zone taxpayers. Through this site, taxpayers may send specific inquiries about their filing and payment status and update their combat-zone status in order to qualify for relief provisions. If the IRS takes any actions or sends a notice of examination before learning that the taxpayer qualifies for a deadline extension, the taxpayer should return the notice with "COMBAT ZONE EXTENSION" written across the top. No penalties or interest will be imposed for failure to file a return or pay taxes during the extension period. The IRS, however, will pay interest on a refund from the due date of the return if the return is timely filed after applying the deadline extension.

For personal assistance in preparing tax returns, contact the Naval Sub Base Tax Assistance Office at (860) 694-3741, extension 9, to set an appointment.

Visit the
**Connecticut
Guardian**

on-line at

www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Education Essentials: *Benefits To You, Your Career and the Guard*

COL. STEVEN D. ANDERSON
DCSPER

In the course of imparting guidance to members of a board recently convened to review soldiers' military records, Maj. Gen. William Cugno, the Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard, emphasized the importance of education as part of the process of assessing a soldiers overall qualifications for his or her duty position and rank. He is not alone in his emphasis on the importance of education in achieving meaningful goals and objectives.

Two of our nation's past Commanders-in-Chief, James A. Garfield and John F. Kennedy, have put education at the top of our nations priorities. President Garfield, more than a hundred years ago, said that, "next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained." President Kennedy noted that, "Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource."

As soldiers and members of the Connecticut National Guard, we are charged with maintaining and developing "our fundamental resource" in order that we effectively preserve and enhance our ability to defend freedom and justice.

Educational Goals

The Army has long recognized the importance of both civilian and military schooling in the development of officers and NCOs. Benchmarks or baseline requirements for civilian education have evolved into standards that reflect the level of commitment a soldier demonstrates to his or her career. It begins with the requirement of a GED or high school diploma for soldiers in the rank of E1

through E5. An Associates Degree is the goal for Grades E6 through E9 by the 15th year of service. Warrant Officers are expected to have a Baccalaureate degree in their military specialty or in management by their 15th year. Officers are required to obtain a Baccalaureate Degree for promotion to the rank of Captain if their date of appointment is after September 30, 1995. These are baseline requirements and the soldier who is committed to personal and professional development will seek to further enhance his or her education. Education makes every soldier more versatile, more capable, more competent and therefore more valuable to the Army. Good judgment, critical thinking and responsibility are vital characteristics of a professional soldier and traits that are natural byproducts of higher education.

Tuition Benefits

Fortunately, members of the Connecticut National Guard have a wealth of educational opportunities and resources to tap into that make education an investment with minimal costs and maximum benefits.

One of the most significant benefits provided to members of the Connecticut National Guard, is a Tuition Waiver for soldiers who are state residents and who attend a Community College, State college or State University. Another such benefit is Tuition Reimbursement. Reimbursement is available for college courses, as well as training received from accredited training schools in a wide variety of career fields, such as computer training, emergency medical technician training, pilot training, truck driving school and many more. Reimbursement covers 75 percent of tuition up to \$3,500 per fiscal year. The Student Loan Repayment Program is a bonus program offered to certain Army National Guard

soldiers which assists soldiers in paying back federally insured or guaranteed loans.

College Courses and Programs

In addition to tuition benefits, there are a wide variety of programs, which are available through the Education Office located at STARC Headquarters in the Hartford Armory. For soldiers who find it difficult to attend classes in a traditional classroom setting, courses leading to an Associate, Bachelor or post graduate degree are available on-line as part of the Defense Activity Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) External Degree Program. Another alternative for soldiers seeking courses leading to either an undergraduate or graduate degree is the COHORT Program, which is offered through a collaborative arrangement with Eastern Connecticut State College. Participants in this program attend classes at the Hartford Armory or Camp Rowland.

Testing and Credit

In determining what course of action is most suitable for an individual soldier, or what courses or programs are likely to be most beneficial, once again there are a variety of tools at the soldiers' disposal. The Army National Guard Institute provides timely, concise, comprehensive, expert educational advice to members of the Army National Guard and their spouses. A wide range of tests is available to soldiers and their spouses such as ACT/SAT, GRE/GMAT, ASE/Praxis certification, Excelsior College (formerly Regents College) exams, which measure a prospective student's level of knowledge or experience. Video taped courses specifically designed to prepare for, and enhance performance on such test are available. The Student Guide To Success

offers college level study material on video and audiocassettes. College Level Examination Program (CLEP) testing is available to obtain college course credits by demonstrating a knowledge level consistent with what is typically learned in certain basic college-level courses. In fact, college credits may be earned through the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) for courses and learning experiences gained as a soldier through MOS schools, BNCO, ANCO, correspondence courses or other types of training. This program can provide a soldier with a supplement to his or her resume in order to provide prospective employers with a better understanding of the scope of responsibilities and skills acquired through military.

Contact the Education Office to Take Advantage Of Programs and Benefits

These and other programs are available to Guard members and/or their spouses through the Education Office. The office is a treasure trove of educational benefits - and it's not a hidden treasure. The benefits are there to be had. When your file is reviewed for promotion consideration, assignment selection or retention purposes, one of the areas certain to receive attention is education. Be smart - get educated. Education is a *win, win, win* proposition; it benefits you, it benefits your family, it benefits your civilian employer and it benefits The Guard. Visit the Education Office located in the Hartford Armory or call Staff Sgt. Linda Patnoad at (860) 524-4820 today. Your progress and development, personally and professionally, as President Kennedy observed, are directly linked to education.

Health Matters: *You Can Stop Smoking!!!*

COL. PAUL V. EDELEN
STATE SURGEON

If you have been a soldier long enough, you may recall when "smoke 'em if you got 'em" was a common refrain heard at the beginning of virtually every break in training. Non-smokers could barter for just about anything contained in a C-ration meal by trading away the cigarettes. Those days are long gone, but smoking remains a serious health concern that affects the health, well-being and therefore readiness of the Connecticut National Guard and all its soldiers and airmen.

By now, most Connecticut smokers have had to reach deeper into their pockets to feed their smoking habit. If this is not enough motivation to stop smoking, perhaps some good advice will help. Most smokers realize that tobacco smoke contains chemicals that are linked to cancer, emphysema, heart disease, impotence, skin

wrinkles, gum disease and a host of other bad things. As soldiers, our physical fitness and endurance may be hampered, as well as our general well-being and vitality. Our records show that 29 percent of CTARNG soldiers smoke. (This is above the national average of 23 percent.) Since seven out of ten smokers express the desire to quit, we have approximately 750 CTARNG soldiers who desire to quit. Here are some useful facts to help you stop smoking:

"Most people who try to quit require several tries. Don't be discouraged.

"Most people (90 percent) need some help to quit such as a nicotine replacement.

"Setting a quit date well in advance allows you to prepare yourself for quitting.

"Work out some distracters to help you through your most habitual smoking moments.

"Take some comfort in knowing that nicotine replacement aids and medications often cost less than smoking and can usually be stopped after three months.

Here are some ballpark cost figures:

Smoking*	One pack per day
Cost per month:	\$120-\$150

Nicotine patch*	One patch daily
Cost per month:	\$89-\$124

Nicotine gum (4 mg)*	5-8 pieces per day
Cost per month:	\$73

Nicotine inhaler (Rx)	4 inhalers per day
Cost per month:	\$123

Zyban (Rx)	One tablet twice daily
Cost per month:	\$96

* denotes over the counter.

Rx denotes prescription required.

What if you could win a free Caribbean cruise for two by quitting smoking for a year?

Well you can. Do the math. If you are currently smoking a pack a day you're spending close to \$1,500 a year on cigarettes in Connecticut. A seven-day cruise from New York City to the Bahamas currently advertises for approximately \$1,200. That leaves you with \$300 in spending money, if you take the money spent on cigarettes and spend it on a relaxing vacation. The permutations are as limitless as the activities or causes to which the money spent on smoking can be applied.

The health benefits, as outlined above, are equally obvious and even more significant. In short, it makes good sense, as well as adding up in dollars and cents.

You must be firmly committed to stopping smoking for any of these aids to help you succeed. Once you succeed in quitting, never fall prey to a "friend" who offers you a smoke. YES, YOU CAN.

CHAPLAIN'S

C
O
R
N
E
R

The Silver Lining

CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) KEVIN P. CAVANAUGH
85th TROOP COMMAND

Over the past several months I have had the opportunity to speak with several of our Connecticut National Guard soldiers who have been deployed; some to security missions within Connecticut and others who have traveled to various parts of the globe in support of Operation Joint Forge, Task Force Olympic Gold and others. Each of them took great pride in recalling the nature of their particular mission, its unique hardships and challenges and the role that they played in defending our nation and protecting our freedom. As we concluded our conversation I took the opportunity to ask each of them what they had learned through their deployment and what they would do differently if they has to do it all over again.

Although their answers varied from person to person, several common themes seemed to be almost universal.

They spoke with pride about their willingness to serve our nation in its time of need. Despite some personal hardships, long hours and often mundane tasks they were honored to be able to answer our country's call. Their mission gave them purpose and added to their self-esteem.

Soldiers found great strength and encouragement in the support that they received from their families, friends, employers, and each other. They were often surprised by the support and kindness that came from complete strangers.

Soldiers recalled their previous training and the confidence that it gave them. They prized the visits of their commanders and appreciated the assistance that was given them in smoothing out the wrinkles that came with their mission.

Many of those who were deployed outside Connecticut spoke with longing about the sacrifice that came with being separated from their wives, children and families. Yet they found that this longing helped them to better appreciate those that they had often taken for granted.

Soldiers, many of whom were not previously religious, turned to God to ask for divine assistance, strength for their mission and protection for their families and loved ones. In their time of need they recognized that God was there to assist them.

We don't know when the present crisis will be ended, but we do know that as members of the Connecticut National Guard we have something in common with Almighty God: "We'll be there". We will be there for others and one another as He is there for us. Besides the technical proficiency that we have gained from accomplishing our mission, we have grown through our experiences to value the things and particularly the people who are most important in our lives.

As we look ahead, we acknowledge that the future is uncertain. Yet, we remain confident that there is no mission too great when we work as a team and have the Lord on our side. May God continue to bless us and our great nation.

"For God and country"



Expanded options for transfers into the TSP — As of April 1, 2002, participants can transfer or roll over funds from any eligible retirement plan into the TSP, including funds from an eligible employer plan like a 401(k) plan or a traditional individual retirement account (IRA). However, because the TSP cannot accept balances on which income taxes have already been paid, transfers must consist solely of balances on which income taxes have not yet been paid. For more information, see Form TSP 60 (or, if you are a member of the uniformed services, Form TSP-U-60) Request for a Transfer Into the TSP.

Address Reminder - If you are currently employed, as a National Guard Technician, and your address has changed, report your new address to your agency or service so that your address will be correct when TSP mails your participant statement in May. If you are separated from Federal service and your address has changed, you must submit Form TSP-9 to the TSP Service Office. You can download this form or request copies from the Service Office at (504) 255-6000.

Raise the Federal debt limit - Absent legislation by Congress to raise the Federal debt limit, the Secretary of the Treasury may determine that portions of the monies in the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund cannot be reinvested in Treasury securities because to do so would exceed the present Federal debt limit. However, G Fund investors are protected by a statutory make-whole provision requiring that the interest which would have accrued had the G Fund been fully invested be credited to the G Fund. For additional information check out the TSP web site: www.tsp.gov

Next Open Season - May 15th through July 31st 2002

Contribution limits effective in January 2002 were set at 12 percent for FERS employees

Thrift Savings Update for Federal Technicians

and 7 percent for CSRS employees and members of the uniformed services. All participants who want to increase their contributions must submit requests during the next open season. Next year will be an increase to 13 percent for FERS and 8 percent for CSRS.

Elective deferral limit for 2002: \$11,000

Your current account balance is available after the monthly processing cycle, once earnings have been allocated to participants' accounts. The previous month's balance (and rates of return) are generally available on the 4th business day of the month. You will need your Social Security number and Personal Identification Number (PIN). If you do not know your PIN, you can request a new one from the Account Access section on the Web Site or from the ThriftLine (504) 255-8777.

For more information about the Thrift Savings Plan check out the web site or call Kathie Riccio at the Soldier Airman Support Center - (860) 878-6735.

Leaving the Federal Government or the Military? and You have 2 Thrift Savings Plan accounts?

If an individual separates from civilian service and has a uniformed services TSP account, the individual may ask the TSP to transfer the civilian account to his or her uniformed services account. If an individual separates from the uniformed services and has a civilian TSP account, the individual may ask the TSP to transfer the uniformed services account to his or her civilian TSP account. In order to do this and avoid paying taxes, a participant must complete Form TSP-65 and submit it directly to the TSP Service Office.

The TSP-65 is available on the TSP Web site or from the TSP Service Office (504) 255-6000.

WARNING ORDER

8th Annual Summer Youth Camp
June 26 to June 30
Camp Rowland, Niantic

Family Program Readiness Conference
June 28 to June 30
Camp Rowland, Niantic

For more information or to register, call the Connecticut National Guard Family Program Office at (860) 878-6723
Registration Deadline for the Summer Youth Camp is
May 15, 2002

Registration Deadline for the Family Program Readiness Conference is June 10, 2002

Fiber Optic Technicians Certified

The Connecticut Army National Guard has its first of 15 soldiers to be certified as fiber optic technicians.

Capt. Richard Leydon, Company C, 280th Signal Battalion; Warrant Officer Cliff Miller, DOIM; Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Norkun, 169th Leadership Regiment; Staff Sgt. Bob Bertolini, DOIM; and Sgt. David Robertson, DOIM are the first to meet the commercial standard for fiber

technicians in the Connecticut Guard.

According to Lt. Col. Russ Styles, this will be an immense cost savings to the department and state overall.

The plan is to train 100 percent of the full-time DOIM staff, 50 percent of the DOIM M-day staff and 75 percent of Company C, 280th Signal Battalion's Wire and Cable Platoon. A second and third iteration will be conducted shortly.

NCOs Lead the Way, Graduate ANCOC and BNCOC

From page 3

Staff Sgt. Peter G. Drupa, Honor Graduate from the ANCOC, spoke of the program that he and his peers participated in.

"I learned a lot; the material was pretty extensive." He gave this advice to those soldiers who followed: "Anyone who wants to be an NCO has to expect the standards. They (the troops) expect the NCOs to lead them, they must be role models."



Staff Sgt. James A. Sypher, a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry, addresses the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course graduates. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)

First Sgt. Gregory A. Powell, who is currently the 143rd Forward Support Battalion's first sergeant of the company and battalion operations sergeant, addressed the graduating ANCOC class as the guest speaker.

The graduates from BNCOC were addressed by guest speaker Staff Sgt. James A. Sypher, a rifle platoon sergeant for Company B, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry, who said, "Be, know, do; this is leadership in action.... and it is not so much as to memorize it, as to understand it."

In his address, Sypher referred to troop leading procedures as one of the "many facets of leadership" that can be applied to all jobs within the Army and that "these eight steps should become second nature to you."

Towards the end of his address, Sypher said "You are leading them (the soldiers), they look to you for guidance. Don't shortchange them."

Later, in both graduations, the classes and attendees were addressed by the special guest speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III, Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major.

Lever shared with the graduates the NCO vision "lead by example, train from experience, maintain and enforce standards, take care of soldiers, and adapt to change."

He also mentioned the changes in the Army National Guard that have occurred since September 11.

"We are a changing Guard. We have never done some of the missions we do today. You have responded, and responded well."

Lever closed each of his speeches with, "Congratulations to the families, to you, the graduates, I hope to see you on this battlefield or the next one."

Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant General, Connecticut National Guard made the closing remarks to both ceremonies.

"I express my appreciation to the families that are here, and to those who could not make it."

To the graduates, he said, "I need your help to lead the more than 4,000 members of our Guard... Help them, show them, lead them."



Members of the Governor's Horse and Foot Guards also graduated from the Noncommissioned Officers Course at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)



First Sgt. Gregory Powell, 143rd Forward Support Battalion, was the guest speaker for the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course graduation ceremony. (Photo by Spec. Marian Rosado, 65th PCH)

ARMED FORCES DAY

2002

May 17, 2002
Aqua Turf Country Club
Southington, CT

11:00 Social
12:00 Lunch

\$25 Per Ticket

Contact Your Local Representative for Tickets

United for Freedom

ARMED FORCES DAY LUNCHEON AQUA TURF CLUB PLANTSVILLE, CT 06479

RESPONSE FORM

Please use this form to reserve individual or group tickets for the Connecticut Armed Forces Day Luncheon to be held on 17 May 2002. Deadline for advanced reservations will be May 10th. Tickets will be forwarded to your designated representative by mail or held at the door for you. Cost per individual is \$25.00. Please make checks payable to The Connecticut Armed Forces Day Luncheon Committee.

NAME: _____

TITLE/POSITION: _____

COMPANY / ORGANIZATION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ FAX: _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

CW4 Jim Howard
 National Guard Armory
 360 Broad St
 Hartford, CT 06105-3795

Retirees' Voice:

ODCSPER Retiree Services / Address & Telephone Directory

Many of you have called, e-mailed or written *The Guardian* asking for information you can use to locate fellow soldiers and airmen, or how to find old service records and with several other questions. It is our hope that the following address and telephone directory will be of help in your quests for information.

Defense Finance & Accounting Services

DFAS-CL Website PO Box 99191, Cleveland, OH 44199-1126 or call 1-800-321-1080.

Army Echoes, Retired pay statements, federal income tax statements (1099-R), and other correspondence originating at Defense Finance and Accounting Service - Cleveland Center (DFAS-CL) are mailed to Army retirees based on the correspondence address the retiree has on file at DFAS-CL. To receive these important documents, retirees must keep their address at DFAS-CL up-to-date.

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Annuitants

DFAS-DE/FRB Website, 6760 E. Irvington Place, Denver, CO 80279-6000 or call 1-800-435-3396.

Army Echoes, SBP annuitant statements, federal income tax statements (1099-R), and other correspondence originating at Defense Finance and Accounting Service - Denver Center (DFAS-DE) are mailed to Army SBP annuitants based on the correspondence address the annuitant has on file at DFAS-DE. To receive these important documents, annuitants must keep their address at DFAS-DE up-to-date.

Retired Reservists, Not Yet Age 60 and Not in Receipt of Retired Pay

AR-PERSCOM Website Commander, AR-PERSCOM, ATTN: ARPC-MOP-M, 1 Reserve Way, St Louis, MO 63132-5200.

Army Echoes, and other important correspondence, is mailed based on the correspondence address on file at AR-PERSCOM. To receive these important documents, retired reservists must keep their address at AR-PERSCOM up-to-date.

Miscellaneous Points of Contact

Report the Death of an Army Retiree HQDA Casualty

Assistance Office Call 1-800-626-3317 From Overseas: Call (703) 325-7990 (Collect)

Update Army Retiree ID Card Records in Case of Death or Divorce

Call One of These DEERS Offices: California: 1-800-334-4162 Alaska/Hawaii: 1-800-527-5602 CONUS: 1-800-538-9552 (Except CA)

Replace Lost DD Forms 214, Decorations, or Awards

National Personnel Records Center, ATTN: Army Reference Branch (NCPMA), 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

Information on Reserve Benefits AR-PERSCOM Benefit/Entitlement questions:

1-800-325-4986, Customer Contact Office: 1-800-452-0201 or Visit Their Website

Information on National Guard Benefits National Guard Visit Their Website

Information on VA Insurance Policies East of the Mississippi River:

VA Insurance, PO Box 8079, 5000 Wissahickon, Philadelphia, PA 19101 or call 1-800-669-8477

West of the Mississippi River: VA Insurance, Federal Building, Fort Snelling, St Paul, MN 55111 or call 1-612-725-3311

Information on VA Burial

VA Burial Information Call 1-800-697-6947 or Visit Their Website

Information on Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery Call (703) 697-2131 or Visit Their Website

Information on Social Security

Social Security Administration Call 1-800-772-1213 or Visit Their Website

Information on Medicare

Social Security Administration | Medicare, Call 1-800-772-1213 or Visit Their Website

Information on Uniformed Services Family Health Plan

(USFHP) USFHP, Call 1-888-258-7347 or Visit Their Website

Information on TRICARE

TRICARE Call Your RSO or HBA or Visit Their Website

Information on Retiree Dental Insurance Program

Retiree Dental Insurance Program Call 1-888-838-8737 or Visit Their Website

Information on the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home (USSAH)

USSAH Admissions Department, 3700 N. Capitol St, Washington, DC 20317-0001 or call 1-800-422-9988 or (202) 722-3337

Information on the United States Naval Home (USNH)

USNH Resident Affairs, US Naval Home, 1800 Beach Drive, Gulfport, MS 39507-1597 or call 1-800-332-3527

Information on Army Retirement Services Office

ARMY RSO's, Visit the RSO Finder

Information on CHAMPUS/TRICARE or Military Health

Care CHAMPUS/TRICARE or Military Health Care, Contact the Health Benefits Advisor at Your Nearest Military Medical Facility or Visit Their Website

TGIF – The Guard Is Family: 8th Annual Summer Youth Camp

MRS. KIM HOFFMAN
FAMILY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The 8th Annual Summer Youth Camp sponsored by the Family Program Office will be held from June 26 to 30, 2002 at Camp Rowland. Camp applications are now being accepted for children, ages 10-12, for camper positions. Children ages 14 and older are also welcome to apply for attendance as Camp Counselors. The cost of this year's program is \$85.00 per attendee and covers all field trip admissions, lodging, food, camp t-shirt and other items. Children of Army and Air Guard members/employees,

State Military Department employees and Office of Emergency Management employees are invited to apply. If you would like a Camp Application sent to you or if you have further questions about our Program, please contact the Family Program Office at the Soldier-Airman Support Center - (860) 878-6723/24. If you are out of the local calling area, please call toll-free at 1-800-858-2677. You may also reach me or Sgt. Maj. Barbara Montigny via email (kim.hoffman@ct.ngb.army.mil or barbara.montigny@ct.ngb.army.mil)



ANNUAL REDLEG BALL



You are cordially invited to join the members of the Connecticut Redleg Chapter of the US Field Artillery Association at their Annual Redleg Ball.



Date: 25 May 2002

Time: 1800-2100 Open Bar
1900 Dinner
Presentations
Social Hour -
Cash bar after 2100

Place: Holiday Inn
80 Newtown Rd
Danbury, CT 06810

Dress: Military: Class A w/
White Shirt and Bow
Tie, Army Blues/Dress
Mess Civilian: Semi-Formal

Cost: \$60.00 per person
\$70.00 after RSVP

RSVP: 25 April 2002

Please detach and return along with check made payable to:
Connecticut Redlegs 1 Lakeview Dr East Norwalk, CT 06850-2017

Name: _____ Rank _____ Unit/Former

Unit _____ Guest: _____

Address _____

I/we will _____ will not _____ attend. Total Attending _____

Entree Choice: ___ Roast Prime Rib of Beef ___ Chicken Cordon Bleu
___ Baked Stuff Shrimp

Connecticut National Guard Fulltime Employment Opportunities

The following are Connecticut Army and Air Guard Technician openings. For a copy of the Technician vacancy Announcement, see your technician/military supervisor or call Master Sgt. Kevin Salsbury at (860) 878-6739

Note: Several additional job postings are available on the Connecticut National Guard Website.

Army National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Sheet Metal Mechanic (2 Positions)	AVCRAD	WG-10	5/6/2002
Aircraft Mechanic (Indefinite)	AASF	WG-11	5/2/2002
Computer Specialist	USPFO	GS-12	5/2/2002
Military Personnel Technician (Indefinite)	HHD STARC	GS-07	5/9/2002

Air National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing date
Secretary (OA)	103 ACS	GS-05	5/2/2002
Supply Technician - Indefinite	103 FW, LOG	GS-07	5/7/2002
Aircraft Ordnance Systems Mechanic	103 FW, LOG	WG-10	5/6/2002

Listed below are current openings in the Connecticut National Guard AGR program. For a copy of the Military Tour Vacancy Announcement, see your supervisor or call Sgt. 1st Class Jacqueline Thomas at (860) 878-6729.

Note: Several additional job postings are available on the Connecticut National Guard Website.

Army National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Production Recruiter	R&R Command, STARC	SFC/E-7	Open Statewide

The complete listing of both Technician and AGR vacancies and job descriptions can also be accessed by going to the Connecticut National Guard website at www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Visit the
**Connecticut
Guardian**
on-line at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Join the
**Connecticut Air
National Guard**



Contact a Recruiter by email at
recruiter@ctbrad.ang.af.mil
or call toll free 1-800-992-4793

WANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

CALL 1-800-716-3530

**Connecticut's Army
National Guard**

Coming Events

May

May 10-12

EANGUS Region 1 Caucus
Camp Rowland

May 17

Armed Forces Day Luncheon
Aqua Turf, Southington

May 17

Aviation Ball
Marriott, Farmington

May 25

Redleg Ball
Holiday Inn, Danbury

June

June 1

Space and Aviation Day
Various Locations Including Connecticut Air
National Guard

June 15

CT AVCRAD Annual Tag Sale
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
139 Tower Ave., Groton/New London Airport

June 26-30

8th Annual Youth Summer Camp
Camp Rowland

July

July 4

Independence Day

In the Next CG

State Command Sgt. Maj. Primett Retires

The Past, Present and Future of Camp Rowland

Hawgsmoke Competition

Powder House Day

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month
previous to publication.

Combat Search and Rescue Training Takes Air Guard to Savannah

From p. 1

"J-STARS has a special radar that looks at trucks and vehicles on the ground. We practiced how, real world, they would be on the radio warning of any trucks or vehicles coming towards a survivor. We could then engage the threats and protect the survivor."

While all the pilots sharpened their skills thanks to the quality and availability of training, five were able to upgrade or qualify for CSAR missions, which involve protecting and directing the rescue of friendly forces behind enemy lines.

With more than 100 guard members and nearly 80 missions completed on the deployment, the pilots were not the only Connecticut airmen to receive valuable training.

The crew chiefs took the opportunity to bring along three of their newest for some hands on training.

"We took three extra people who were 3 levels (apprentice level) to give them more

experience and training that they would get on a big deployment," said Tech. Sgt. Phillip K. Vasington, aircraft mechanic and "A" flight trainer, 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, who set up the classes. "We have an influx of new people so we need to get everyone up to speed as fast as possible. We are going to try and do it on all the small deployments, even some of the older troops watched and learned some things."

"I remember a lot from tech school, but, this provided some helpful hints and stuff I did



Capt. John M. Dyer, A-10 pilot, 118th Fighter Squadron checks the GAU-8 cannon of his A-10 as he prepares for takeoff from Savannah, Ga. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Eileen S. Casey, 103 CF)

training opportunities offered to them there.

"The facilities were really improved from last time," said Master Sgt. Robert F. Wilson,

not think about," said Senior Airman Jennifer A. Manfredi, crew chief, 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron. "I actually got to do my job and see how other bases work."

Many of the guard members have trained in Savannah before and were impressed with more than just the

maintenance operation center NCOIC, 103rd Logistics Support Flight. "All the rooms were renovated for four people and not open bays like the last trip. The trip highlights were the daily commander's calls and the services (103rd Services Squadron) folks did a great job flexing hours to match our shifts in the dining facility."

Getting anywhere and back in the post 9-11 world can be challenging, particularly when you have a schedule that military airlift is needed to meet.

"It is not that it is not available, just not when we need it," said Master Sgt. Gregory L. Hock, wing plans superintendent, 103rd Fighter Wing who coordinated transportation for the deployment. "We were unable to get the number of aircraft we needed, so we worked with TMO (103rd Transportation Management Office) to send some cargo over the road and people commercial. In this day and age, airlift is at a premium so when contingencies arise we run short of airlift."



Master Sgt. James S. Shewokis (left), crew chief, 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron and Lt. Col. Landis B. Cook (right), A-10 pilot, 103rd Operations Group begin their preflight checks on the Combat Readiness Training Center flightline in Savannah Ga. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Eileen S. Casey, 103 CF)



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BRANCH
NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY, 360 BROAD STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06105-3795

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit No. 603

